



HIDDEN NO MORE

Illuminating the Stories of
Asian America

 **highrock**
ONLINE

Introduction to Facilitator Discussion Guide

Whether you're participating in Hidden No More via an independent discussion group or part of one the Zoom groups hosted by Highrock Online, we'll take time each week to process the events, themes, and experiences from each lecture and consider how we may relate or respond to them personally.

This guide is provided for facilitators to help them lead meaningful discussions among their peers as we unpack the video content together. Instructions in italics can be spoken/used by the facilitator as a script. For Highrock/church-based discussion groups, additional questions are offered at the end to help emphasize connections with faith.

Conversation Covenant

The Conversation Covenant* is an agreement to hold respect and grace toward all participants within a discussion group, no matter the conversation topic.

*Adapted from <https://conversational-leadership.net/conversation-covenant/>

I pledge:

To act in good faith, with curiosity. I will assume the best about my conversation partners when entering into our groups. I will give the benefit of the doubt, recognizing that they may know something I don't.

To show respect. I will show respect. I will be polite and give due regard to the feelings and traditions of others. I understand that I do not have to agree with someone to show them respect.

To speak the truth. I won't use rhetorical tricks to try to win an argument. I will speak what I genuinely believe is the nuanced truth.

To aim to discover the truth. I will not enter into a conversation with the purpose of changing the mind of anyone to my way of thinking.

To focus on what we can change. I will focus on what we can do differently in the future since we cannot change what we did in the past.

To take responsibility for the conversation. I will take responsibility for the quality of the conversation and the abidance of the rules both in principle and in spirit.

To follow the covenant even when others fail to do so. I will abide by the rules regardless of whether another person breaks them.

To respect the confidentiality of the group. I will not share stories of group members verbally or in written form (including on social media and online outlets).

To lighten up and approach the conversation in good humor. I recognize that humor is a hallmark of a constructive, generative conversation and take the conversation in good humor.

Session 1: The Anti-Chinese Movement and Chinese Exclusion in the United States

Kornel Chang

Introductions and Sharing

14 min: As we embark on Hidden No More, we'll begin with the idea and hope of HOME.

- 4 min: Everyone introduce themselves -- name, ethnic background/nationality, their hometown, and where they call home now.
- 2 min: Ask everyone to come up with some few word associations for the word **HOME**. Type them in the chat, or say them aloud.
2 min: Ask everyone to come up with some word associations for the word **MOVE** (e.g., moving away). Type them in the chat or say them aloud.
- 2 min: *Observe and point out any trends, commonalities, or differences among the various associations. Invite the group to share any reflections or feelings around the associations of HOME/MOVING or as they heard others share.*

Lecture Discussion

Transition (1 min): *For nearly everyone, "home" brings up connotations of safety and belonging. Yet for Asian Americans, "home" is often in flux, which we see in our first lecture. Hidden No More begins by introducing us to Chinese Exclusion, and asks us to notice the motivations that drove Chinese immigrants to LEAVE their homes and find/make new ones in the United States.*

[Discussion of Lecture Material may feel redundant for some - feel free to shorten this section as needed]

10 min: *Let's discuss the lecture, especially the idea of 'home' for the Chinese immigrants.*

- *What feelings, thoughts, reactions, or questions emerged while watching the material? Share anything that stuck out to you.*
- *What did you notice about what drew and drove the Chinese immigrants to America?*
- *How does this period fit into your ideas about American immigration history? What might this say about "American values" - both during the 1800s and now? Do you see any parallels between the two?*

Personal Experiences

20 min: *Let's consider how the historical material connects with our personal experience.*

- *Unless you're Native American, everyone in America is an immigrant or descended from immigrants.*

- *Why (and when) did you/your family come? What drew them? What drove them?*
- *How were they treated upon arrival?*
- *Do they/how do they talk about their immigration journey/experience?*
- *Think about your own life (especially once you left your family of origin, if you have):*
 - *What sort of home have you sought to create (and were any MOVES part of that process)?*
 - *How is your idea of HOME similar to or at odds with your family of origin's idea of home?*
 - *Has this created any conflict (within yourself, family, partner, friend etc.?)*
- *When it comes to seeking your ideal home, what ways have you experienced progress? What ways have you experienced resistance? Is there any way that the lecture material or discussion resonates with your own quest for home now?*

Highrock/Church-Based Questions (Optional)

- *In what ways have you seen the church (in general, or your own) express ideas like the ones that led to the exclusion of the Chinese?*
- *In your faith community, do you know any recent non-White immigrants (particularly Asian) who've come here? What drove and drew them here? How have they attempted to adapt to their American setting? How has the church seen/not seen, cared for/not cared for them as newcomers?*
 - *Or, if this is YOUR story, perhaps take the time to share about your experience in depth.*
- *Are there ways you feel prompted to pray, act, or engage your own story or others' stories differently after this lecture and discussion? Share about them. Pray for one another.*

Session 2: Asian America and U.S. Empire in the Philippines and Pacific

Genevieve Clutario

Introductions and Entry (10 min)

- Introduce Self (as needed): name, ethnic background, where you call home now.
- Warm-Up Question: Can you think of a time as a child when you tried to conceal your motives when asking for something? (Or if you have kids, a time you've seen them do this?)
- Entry Question: Think of a time when someone acted with ulterior motives and it affected you personally. How did it make you feel? Invite a few folks to share their story in the chat or unmute yourself and share aloud.
- Briefly, comment on any trends, themes, or things that stick out from these stories.

Transition (1 min)

Thanks, everyone for sharing these challenging experiences. I don't think anybody likes it when someone isn't honest, especially when they have a self-serving motive and it ends up hurting others.

Today we're discussing Lecture 2, which explored how Asian American history doesn't begin here in the States but rather overseas because of America's expansion and impact. Specifically, we'll talk about U.S. colonial rule in the Philippines. As the lecture highlights, the U.S. went to great lengths to communicate that its actions were just, moral, and NOT colonialistic - even when those actions, ultimately, were nearly identical to the Spanish empire they "freed" these colonies from.

Lecture Discussion (15 min)

NOTE: For some, rehashing lecture material can feel redundant - shorten, amend, omit as needed

Let's discuss the lecture material:

- *What significant feelings, thoughts, reactions, or questions emerged while watching this lecture? If something stuck out to you personally, please share.*
- *Can you recall the ways that the U.S. idealized itself and its actions. Have you ever heard and/or believed any of these specific stories/ideals? Do you still? Are there ways you now think differently? If so, why?*
- *Let's consider the impact of U.S. colonialism on Filipinx life/culture - both in the Philippines or here in the U.S. What oppression did the Filipinos face? What opportunities were open to them? How do you feel about the coexistence of these?*

Personal Experiences (15 min)

15 min: Now, let's consider how this history connects with our own experience and context.

- *Are there current ways the U.S. idealizes itself or its actions? What are some you've encountered recently or regularly? What ulterior motives do they attempt to hide?*
- *Thinking about your family's experience in the U.S., what has been their/your experiences of oppression or opportunity? What do you (or your family) think about this coexistence?*
 - *If your family has been here for more than 2 generations, consider how your ancestors' experience might compare to your your current experience.*

Highrock/Church-Based Questions (Optional)

- *As people of faith, what do you think should be our response when we identify ulterior motives, and the idealizations used to hide them? How have you engaged with this dynamic before?*
- *Are there ways you feel prompted to pray, act, or engage differently after this lecture and discussion? Share about them. Pray for one another.*

Resilience Highlight (Optional):

"My Father was a Paper Son" - <https://www.immigrant-voices.aiisf.org/737-my-father-was-a-paper-son/>
Amnesty program (giving up false identity in exchange for corrected one).

Session 3: WWII Japanese American Incarceration and the End of Asian Exclusion

Jane Hong

Introductions and Entry Question (10 min)

- Introductions (if necessary/especially if first time): name, ethnic background, where you call home now, how you found the course.
- Warm-Up Question: What's one club or organization you're a member of (not an employee)? What did you have to do to join/gain entry? (The more outrageous, the better)!
- Entry Question: Can you think of a time when you were refused admission, membership, or the emotional/social sense that you belonged - even though you really believed you should belong? Share that story here (whether funny or serious).

Transition (1 min)

Having your sense of belonging challenged - especially when you DO belong and qualify for it - can feel like betrayal. We see this play out in today's lecture on WWII, especially in the incarceration of Japanese Americans and how America's pursuit of 'national security' impacted them and other populations.

Lecture Discussion (20 min)

Let's discuss the lecture material:

- **General:** *What significant feelings, thoughts, reactions, or questions emerged while watching this episode? If something stuck out to you personally, you can share it now.*
- **Impact on Asian Americans:** *WWII impacted Asian Americans of all kinds.*
 - *Most of the Japanese Americans incarcerated were American citizens. What do you make of how Executive Order 9066 treated their status as citizens?*
 - *Because of its goals in the war, the US formed an alliance with China after excluding and disdaining them for decades. What do you make of this change?*
 - *Other groups in America were also affected by wartime shifts in culture and attitude. What do you make of how other Asian communities in America were treated during this period?*
 - *Broadly, what does this say about America? About national security?*
- **Japanese American Incarcerates:** *What did you make of the various ways that Japanese American incarcerated responded? How do you think you would have responded?*

Personal Experiences (20 min)

15 min: *We'll now consider our own experience and context.*

- *Japanese Americans had worked hard to 'become Americans' (both legally and culturally). What's your relationship like to American culture, identity, and nationality? Do you feel you belong? Do you feel you should/want to? How do you engage your American-ness / your place in American culture? Consider how your family (including prior generations) has engaged this question.*
 - *If you're Asian/Asian American, consider when you've been in majority-White-American (or at least non-Asian) settings and how you might've felt / engaged with 'American-ness' and your place.*
 - *If you're not of Asian descent, are there times you've denied others' Americanness, or had your own American-ness denied or challenged? What was that like?*
 - *If your family has been here for more than two generations, consider how some of the prior generations may have navigated this question.*
- *How have you seen American identity, inclusion, and favor bestowed or revoked in a modern context or your own life? What were the reasons this happened (both the stated and unstated reasons)?*

Highrock/Church-Based Questions (Optional)

- *As people of faith, how do you think we ought to view the pursuit of security? How does this fit into our understanding of faith? How have we (or our faith community) sought security? Does it resemble the way the U.S. pursued it in this lecture?*
- *What role should nationality or cultural belonging play in our own lives as people of faith? How do you engage or interact with these identity markers in your own life and faith?*
- *Are there ways you feel prompted to pray, act, or engage differently after this lecture and discussion? Share about them. Pray for one another.*

Resilience Highlight (5 min) - Japanese American Incarceree Baseball Teams

Can be placed also in the TRANSITION section, before breakout discussions begin

- <https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/2021/05/11/diamond-in-the-rough-japanese-americans-imprisoned-at-arizona-camps-during-wwii-found-solace-in-baseball/>
- <https://densho.org/catalyst/baseball-world-war-ii-concentration-camps-photo-essay-brief-history/>

Session 4: Asian Americans and the Cold War

Susie Woo

Introductions and Entry (10 min)

- Introductions: name, ethnic background, (if your first time, ALSO share how you heard about HNM and where you call home now)
- Warm-Up Question: Do you have a jingle, brand slogan, TV commercial, ad, etc. that lives in your head rent-free? What is it? Do you like it? Do you even like the product it's for?
- Entry Question: Speaking of good PR/publicity, when is a time you told a white lie, describing something creatively/dishonestly to make it seem better? Or, think of a time this happened to you. Humorous/outrageous stories are welcome. Share this story briefly.

Transition (1 min)

Thanks, everyone for sharing your experiences. It is only natural to look on the bright side of things when a situation is complex, but the more one ignores the negative or difficult things, the more dishonest it eventually seems. Tonight we'll discuss how the United States tries to deal with bad press: the lengths it'll go to paint itself altruistically, often through tokenizing people (especially Asians and Asian Americans). Looking at the Cold War specifically, we'll see, yet again, how Asians in America were affected by shifting sentiments about Asians abroad. This lecture also gave special attention to the unique experiences of military brides, mixed children, and adoptees, especially those of Korean descent which we'll be sure to discuss.

Lecture Discussion (15 min)

Let's discuss the lecture material:

- **General:** *What significant feelings, thoughts, reactions, or questions emerged while watching this episode? If something stuck out to you personally, you can share it now.*
- **American goals and actions:** *How did American political goals lead to actions in Asia? How did it affect America's view of Asian Americans? What might this say about broader American culture and its view of people, national security, and inclusion?*
- **Impact on and Response of Asians/Asian Americans:** *How did Asian Americans respond to shifting international events and American opinions? How did you feel about what happened to them and their reactions? In what ways were they victims? In what ways did they express resilience?*

Personal Experiences (15 min)

15 min: *We'll now consider our own experience and context.*

- *When in your own life have you seen people tokenized or used for propaganda purposes? Have you ever been tokenized or used this way?*
 - *Particularly if you're Asian/Asian American, consider your own experiences of tokenization, when you've been in majority-white-American (or at least non-Asian) settings, and how you've been viewed, included, or publicized.*
 - *For all of us (Asian or not), are there ways we've believed in simplistic, tokenistic ideas of other groups in America? Where did we learn these stories? Why did we believe them? When did you revise your beliefs?*
 - *Whether you're Asian or not, if your family has been here for more than two generations, consider how some of the prior generations may have navigated this question in their own context.*
- *What are the alternatives to tokenization? Have you ever intervened / had to deal with a situation when tokenization was taking place? What was that like?*

Highrock/Church-Based Questions (Optional)

- *As people of faith, how should we respond when we see tokenization occurring (especially in church / our own churches, and by those in leadership)? Have you ever had to engage with this dynamic before?*
- *Are there ways you feel prompted to pray, act, or engage differently after this lecture and discussion? Share about them. Pray for one another*

Resilience Highlight (10 min): Carolina Keen / Korean Adoptee

Caroline Keen, friend of Greg Hsu, is a Korean adoptee who grew up in rural North Carolina (Goldsboro/Mt. Olive). She shares her own story and journey of "Learning to Be Korean" and holding the various parts of her own cultural and ethnic identities. Show 2023 video (in HNM folder), or have her speak live]

Session 5: Invention of the Model Minority Myth

Ellen Wu

Introductions and Entry Question (10 min)

- Introductions (if necessary): Name, Ethnic Background, where is home now, how you found the course.
- Warm-Up Question: What's one thing you've changed your opinion on? The more dramatic, the better!
- Entry Question: Can you think of a time someone changed their opinion of you? Was it for some reason on their own or something genuinely about you? Was it for better or worse?

Transition (1 min)

Thanks, everyone, for sharing these experiences. Perceptions and opinions change often! It's only natural. Much of the world expends energy trying to compel people to change their opinion (e.g., buy this instead of that, come to this event instead of staying home in your sweats to watch Netflix, etc.). But when it's an opinion about a person or a group of people, there's more at stake. The reason why an opinion changes can matter as much as the result. Today we'll see how the broader (white) American opinion of Asians and Asian Americans shifted in a dramatic, unexpected, and double-edged way.

Lecture Discussion (15 min)

Let's discuss the lecture material:

- **General:** What significant feelings, thoughts, reactions, or questions emerged while watching this episode? If something stuck out to you personally, you can share it now.
- **From the 1800s to WWII, Asian Americans played several roles on the broader American cultural/political stage.** What do you make of the shifting roles that various groups of Asians were assigned? How does this inform your understanding of America?
- **Asian Americans used diverse strategies (some of them contradictory/conflicting) to push for acceptance and resources.** What do you make of this dynamic? Have you seen other groups act in a similar way today or at other times in history?
- **Model? Beleaguered?:** Asian Americans have in some ways achieved an enviable, stable position in society. In other ways, they are still beleaguered. What do you think?

Personal Experiences (15 min)

15 min: *We'll now consider our own experience and context.*

- *Asian Americans eventually were able to reap some benefits, though partly at the expense of other people of color.*
 - *Have you ever benefited / been treated better at someone else's expense? What was it like? What did you do when you realized the situation? Would you have done anything different (if so, what/would that even have been possible)?*
- *Asian Americans employed conflicting strategies to gain support.*
 - *Can you think of a time when you employed conflicting strategies, or acted in away that were contradictory to achieve something? What was the situation? What was the result? How did it feel? What would you do differently (if you could/wanted to)?*
- *Asian Americans often feel a burden to prove their beleaguered status.*
 - *Have you ever experienced unequal treatment or had a legitimate need that wasn't recognized? What was the context? What did you do about it (if anything)? What was the result?*
- *Asian Americans also often feel the need to portray themselves as ultra-competent, unflappable, agreeable, and exemplary.*
 - *Have you ever felt pressure to live up to an unrealistic/excessively-high standard? When and why? What would've happened if you didn't? What would you do differently (if anything or if possible)?*

Highrock/Church-Based Questions (Optional)

- *Asian Americans often felt they had to prove their worth, agreeability, or "model-ness" to be accepted. Are there ways we/our faith communities demand or impose this kind of pressure on others? How have you seen faith communities engage in this practice? How have you seen them avoid/rise above this dynamic?*
- *As people of faith, how should we respond to those who are beleaguered? How have you / your faith community engaged this question (not necessarily toward a whole ethnic/racial category)? Are there ways your community applies an excessive standard before it reaches out?*
- *Are there ways you feel prompted to pray, act, or engage differently after this lecture and discussion? Share about them. Pray for one another.*

Resilience Highlight (10 min): Everything Everywhere All At Once

EEAAO - James Hong had to perform roles that were demeaning because of white supremacy but now has a worthwhile award.

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2023/mar/06/this-is-my-chance-everything-everywheres-james-hong-on-bullying-yellowface-and-his-big-break-at-94>

Session 6: Southeast Asian Refugee Narratives

Melissa Borja

Introductions and Entry Question (10 min)

- Introductions (if necessary): Name, Ethnic Background, where is home now, how you found the course.
- Warm-Up Question: What's one thing you learned that revised/reversed a prior assumption you held? The more strange/comical, the better!
- Entry Question: Have you ever experienced someone assuming something about you that wasn't entirely true? How did that feel? How did you respond? (Or have you made an assumption about someone else)?

Transition (1 min)

Thanks for sharing these experiences. We make assumptions all the time - many turn out to be accurate! But assumptions can also miss reality. At times, it's mere ignorance, but it can often result in erasure. Today we look in-depth at the stories of Southeast Asian refugees. For some, this will be recent history or even family history - but for many, it's a story seen through the lens of an American lost cause, and results in the indiscriminate clumping of Southeast Asians alongside others with very different immigration experiences.

Lecture Discussion (15 min)

Let's discuss the lecture material:

- **General:** What significant feelings, thoughts, reactions, or questions emerged while watching this episode? If something stuck out to you personally, you can share it now.
- **Motivations for Receiving Southeast Asian Refugees:** Dr. Borja described four motivations that drove willingness to receive Southeast Asian refugees - 1: American exceptionalism, 2: Guilt over actions in Southeast Asia, 3: American moral goodness/religious motivations, 4: Belief that refugees are good for America. Discuss your reactions to these.
- **Experience and Impact of Southeast Asian Refugees on America:** What stuck out to you about the experience of Southeast Asian refugees and their settlement experience? What did you note about the impacts of Southeast Asian refugees on America?
- **Private-Public Partnership:** The settlement of Southeast Asian refugees from the 1970s onward was accomplished only through private-public partnerships between government and religious organizations (especially Christian churches). What do you make of this unique dynamic and pathway of immigration?

Personal Experiences (15 min)

15 min: *We'll finish by considering our own experience and context.*

- *When you think of the terms “Asian” or “Asian American”, what are the first ideas, images, or kinds of people that come to mind? Where do Southeast Asian refugees fit (or not fit) in your personal or society's larger ideas of Asians/Asian Americans? How do you think this affects American culture or the specific experiences of various kinds of Asian/Asian Americans?*
- *Southeast Asian stories are often lumped into other, larger Asian American immigrant narratives. Their experience of war and trauma are often erased or looked at through an American lens. Or, perhaps as an expression of the Model Minority Myth, Southeast Asian success stories are celebrated. Have you ever seen this dynamic happen - in your own personal experiences, in relationships with others, or in ideas you've held (about Asians/Asian Americans, America itself, etc.)?*

Highrock/Church-Based Questions (Optional)

- *Religious organizations, especially Christian churches, played an integral role in settling Southeast Asian refugees. What spiritual and religious motivations do you think might have driven this outpouring of support? Can you think of an issue or crisis where your faith community responded in a similar way?*
- *As people of faith, what should be our response to refugees? How have you and/or your own faith community responded to refugees or others in comparable situations?*
- *Are there ways you feel prompted to pray, act, or engage differently after this lecture and discussion? Share about them. Pray for one another.*

Resilience Highlight A (10 min): Sunisa Lee

- Sunisa Lee was a breakout star in the 2022 Olympics. She helped U.S. obtain team silver, she won “all-around” women's gold, and a bronze for individual uneven bars.
- Sunisa Lee as pioneer, beleaguered, refugee, and victim of racism.
- Pioneer: The [first-ever](#) athlete of Hmong descent EVER in the Olympics let alone the first Asian American to win gymnastics all-around gold.
- Beleaguered: No money to relocate for training (e.g., [Gabby Douglas](#)). She trained in her own backyard on [a balance beam hand-built by her stepdad](#), John Lee ([on NBC](#)). Her [family is blended](#) - many Asian refugee communities have higher incidences of divorce due to trauma. She's part of a broader ethnic community - watch party at [Brothers Event Center](#), Asian immigrant owned facility [popular among Hmong community](#). Hmong Americans have experienced horrible violence and also are resilient and brilliant ([celebrating](#)).
- Victim of Racism: As student-athlete at Auburn ([LOT of perfect 10s while competing](#)), she's dating an African American college athlete Jaylin Smith (football player at USC). She's received backlash and criticism, including from Asian Americans and Hmong Americans.

- She also experienced her direct [racist violence](#) - while she was in L.A. to film *Dancing with the Stars* in 2021, she was waiting for an Uber with other Asian American friends when a car drove by and someone inside shouted racial slurs, told them to go back where they came from, and sprayed them with pepper spray. She said she felt powerless and didn't say anything and was mad at herself for letting it happen. This feels also very Asian American - offended, but not wanting to offend, and mindful of being a representative for others. And, if ever there's an expression of perpetual foreigner syndrome or even the reductionist dynamics of the Model Minority Myth, this might be it. Sunisa Lee is both an elite Asian American, and yet also just another Asian, to be cursed at.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/suni-lee-becomes-first-asian-american-woman-take-gold-gymnastics-n1275400>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-59257006>

Resilience Highlight B (10 min): Amanda Nguyen

- Harvard undergrad - survivor of sexual assault
- Major force for Stop Asian Hate
- Went on a journey back to Vietnam / retracing refugee story and steps

Session 7: Vincent Chin to Post-9/11: The New Yellow Peril

Jane Hong

Introductions and Entry Question (10 min)

- Introductions (if necessary): Name, Ethnic Background, where is home now, how you found the course.
- Warm-Up Question: Have you ever been blamed for something you didn't do? Why were you blamed instead of someone/something else?
- Entry Question: Have you ever been in a conflict that was actually fundamentally about a third party (especially if they weren't directly in the room/situation)? What was the context, experience, and result?

Transition (1 min)

Thanks, everyone, for sharing these experiences. Conflicts are a natural and normal part of life, relationships, and community interactions. We all have differences in values or expectations among people, which isn't intrinsically bad. But so often, in the American context for various ethnic groups, conflicts are shaped by power and cultural dominance. In today's lecture, we see four major milestones and places where Asians/Asian Americans experienced and engaged in conflicts with mainstream white American culture AND ostensibly other people groups of color. Yet the underlying factors were mostly reflective of deeper white American cultural dominance and supremacy.

Lecture Discussion (15 min)

Let's discuss the lecture material:

- **General:** What significant feelings, thoughts, reactions, or questions emerged while watching this episode? If something stuck out to you personally, you can share it now.
- **Milestones:** Dr. Hong described four major milestones for Asian Americans. 1: Vincent Chin's murder, 2: Japanese American incarceration reparations, 3: the Los Angeles uprising, and 4: affirmative action. What new information did you receive from the lecture? How has it changed or challenged ideas you had - about these events, Asians/Asian Americans, or America?
- **Conflict with white America:** How does this period inform your ideas of how Asians/Asian Americans relate to White America (i.e, Vincent Chin, Incarceration reparations)?
- **Conflict with other people of color:** This period featured Asian/Asian Americans conflicts with other people of color (L.A. uprising, affirmative action)? Yet Dr. Hong observes that focusing on the inter-minority conflicts obscures structural racism and white supremacy. How does this inform your view of these events, of Asian Americans relation to other people of color, and America as a whole?

Personal Experiences (15 min)

15 min: *We'll now consider our own experience and context.*

- *Conflict with white American culture and institutions.*
 - *Think of a setting where white American culture was the dominant force (e.g., a social setting, at school, professional environments, a geographic/neighborhood context). Have you ever had a conflict with an/that established white American culture? How did you navigate, respond, or react to that dynamic in the institution, community, or workplace? What's the cost of navigating or conflicting with this established culture?*
- *Conflict between people of color*
 - *Have you ever experienced conflict or friction between peoples of color (or at least multiple minority groups)? What was your role/relationship to the conflict? How was the conflict handled or navigated? Were there other underlying factors (especially any stemming from an overarching cultural dynamic, i.e., white American culture)? What were those other factors, and how were they addressed (if at all)?*

Highrock/Church-Based Questions (Optional)

- *Are there ways your own spiritual life or faith community are dominated by white American cultural factors? What are the effects/impacts of that (positive or negative)? How has that cultural starting point been consonant or contradictory with your religious values and goals?*
- *As people of faith, what should be our response to cultural dominance (particularly when it's white American)? How have you or your faith community engaged this dynamic/question? What's been the result or friction of that process?*
- *Are there ways you feel prompted to pray, act, or engage differently after this lecture and discussion? Share about them. Pray for one another.*

Resilience Highlight: Black Korean Am Art Show

- <https://abc7.com/1992-uprising-black-korean/11824881/>

Session 8: Post-9/11 America and Brown Asian America

Hardeep Dhillon

Introductions and Entry Question (10 min)

- Introductions (if necessary): Name, Ethnic Background, where is home now, how you found the course.
- Warm-Up Question: What's one time you regretted speaking up? What's one time you regretted NOT speaking up?
- Entry Question: Have you ever been in a situation where someone spoke up on your behalf? Have you ever spoken up for someone else? How did it go? How did it feel?

Transition (1 min)

Thanks, everyone, for sharing these experiences. Sometimes it is hard to speak up when we see something wrong or someone being mistreated - and yet we can probably all think of times when someone spoke up for us, resulting in a sense of relief or vindication. This idea of speaking up feels relevant as we consider the events of 9/11 and the experience of Asian Americans (especially South Asian Americans/Brown Asian Americans). So often they were prejudged, wrongly targeted, harassed, or harmed and even scrutinized by the U.S. government in ways that routinely violated their rights. Since this segment of history is so recent, let's intentionally include our own memories, perceptions, and narratives we have about this time period.

Lecture Discussion (15 min)

Let's discuss the lecture material:

- **General:** *What significant feelings, thoughts, reactions, or questions emerged while watching this episode? If something stuck out to you personally, you can share it now.*
- **9/11 Narratives:** *Where were you on 9/11? What do you remember about the world, America, or stories about the period afterward (especially 2001-2011)?*
- **Violence from fellow Americans:** *What surprised you (or didn't?) about how regular Americans responded after 9/11? What parallels did you see with past events (particularly any involving other Asian ethnic groups)?*
- **Violence from the Government:** *What surprised you (or didn't?) about how the government treated Brown Asians after 9/11? What parallels did you see with past events (particularly those involving other Asian people groups)?*

Personal Experiences (15 min)

15 min: *We'll now consider our own experience and context.*

- *How have your thoughts, feelings, and attitudes on 9/11 and the Global War on Terror evolved since they occurred? How would you describe your current view of America's response?*
- *Can you think of a time when you were unfairly suspected or profiled/doubted in some way? What was that like? What was the result? Have you ever been worried that you or your loved ones would be targeted, suspected, or mistreated?*
- *Consider how the South Asian community responded to the backlash and prejudice they faced (note especially the final segment of the video lecture). Are there ways you've chosen to (or hope to) speak out to bring change, safety, or equity to the circles you're in?*

Highrock/Church-Based Questions (Optional)

- *Brown/South Asians were subjected to legally-authorized harassment, excessive scrutiny and suspicion. In your own spiritual life or faith community, are there people that are treated with excessive scrutiny or suspicion? How is this justified or accounted for? Why do you think this happens?*
- *As people of faith, how should we respond to profiling/bias? How have you or your church community engaged this dynamic/question (not necessarily around a whole ethnic/racial category)? Are there ways you/your church community has failed to account for bias or unconscious discrimination?*
- *Are there ways you feel prompted to pray, act, or engage differently after this lecture and discussion? Share about them. Pray for one another.*

Resilience Highlight: Sikh Captain America

- Vishavjit Singh, artist in Seattle, experienced suspicion and hatred after 9/11. After a mass shooting at a Sikh temple in Madison, WI, he felt he had to do something:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6giM7uA4eYU>

Session 9: Hidden No More: The State of Asian America

Greg Hsu

Introductions and Entry Question (10 min)

- Introductions (if necessary): Name, Ethnic Background, where is home now, how you found the course.
- Warm-Up Question: What's the most ridiculous outfit you've ever worn? What was the reason/context/situation? Extra points if you have photos!
- Entry Question: Can you think of a time when you felt invisible and/or unseen? Conversely, can you think of a time when you felt very visible? What were the positive or negative connotations of that?

Transition (1 min)

Thanks, everyone, for sharing these experiences. In almost all groups, there are dynamics of majority and minority, mainstream and fringe, visibility and invisibility. But when power is given to one group, the dynamic changes. Asians/Asian Americans have often been invisible - erased from history, discriminated against - but also have sometimes chosen to hide or blend in to survive in a hostile world. But in a society that aspires to offer equal rights, opportunity, and diversity, no group should have to hide or be made to feel invisible in order to thrive.

Storytelling Exercise (6 min)

Before we get into our normal discussion, we'll take time to prepare for a storytelling exercise about our background, history, family, and how these make us who we are. Perhaps consider any ways your answers might now be different after taking Hidden No More. This is an adaptation of George Ella Lyon's "Where I'm From" poetry project. Fill out the blanks in the document provided and later in our breakout groups, we'll share as we close. A blank version of the poem can be [found HERE](#) - please save a copy and fill it out!

Lecture Discussion (15 min)

Let's discuss the lecture material:

- **General:** What significant feelings, thoughts, reactions, or questions emerged while listening to this lecture? If something stuck out to you personally, you can share it now.
- **Media Representation:** This period saw a rise in Asians/Asian Americans in popular media - more Asians in "normal" roles (given to white actors in the past, e.g. Persuasion, Killing Eve, Quantico, Searching) as well as Asian-specific stories (e.g. Crazy Rich Asians, Shang-Chi, The Farewell, Everything Everywhere All At Once). What impact has this had, or have you observed? What are the fruits or limits of increased representation?

- ***Discrimination and Violence:*** *Asians/Asian Americans have been victims of violence from fellow Americans and the government itself. Are there ways these acts are distinct/different from the historical examples we've seen? Are there ways these are similar to those past examples?*

Personal Experiences (15 min)

15 min: *We'll now consider our own experience and context.*

- *Asians/Asian Americans are increasingly visible (in some cases beneficial, in other cases detrimental); let's consider the impact on a personal level:*
 - *If you're NOT Asian, how has this increased visibility affected your interactions, relationships, and attitudes towards Asian Americans? Towards broader American culture?*
 - *If you ARE Asian/Asian American, how has this increased visibility played out in your life? How has this changed or affected you? What's your relationship to other Asian/Asian Americans or to broader American culture?*
- *Storytelling and Solidarity: As we're now at the end of Hidden No More, let's consider*
 - *How has this course changed you? How has it changed your view of America? of Asian Americans? Of yourself? What stories will you tell, or tell differently, now?*
 - *Think about institutions, communities, circles, and family contexts that you're part of - are there ways you feel compelled to act, act differently, or enact change? What advocacy, policy-making, goal-setting, or rule-changing come to mind when you picture building a "hidden no more" kind of world?*
- *Please take time now to read your individual "Where I'm From" poems.*
 - *Take time to consider how this course and your discussion group partners have been part of refining your idea of "Where I'm From". Thank one another. Exchange information. Say farewell!*
 - *NOTE: If doing Highrock/church-based questions, do those "before" you do this poem/exit activity - but be sure to leave enough time.*

Highrock/Church-Based Questions (Optional)

- *Are there ways that your own spiritual life or faith environments have contributed to silencing or ignoring Asians/Asian Americans (or other groups)? Are there ways that they're now seeking to make these groups more visible or seen? What's the motivation for that?*
- *As people of faith, how should we respond to these dynamics of visibility (both the harmful and the helpful)? How might you or your faith community engage those who are made more visible?*
- *Are there ways you feel prompted to pray, act, or engage differently after this lecture and discussion? Share about them. Pray for one another.*