Week 2 Leader’s Guide- **Corporate Sin and Corporate Responsibility**
by Dr. Soong-Chan Rah

**I. Introduction**(note: online introduction powerpoint could be used in addition to or instead of this information)

**Overview\***
In American society, we have a number of mediating narratives - stories we tell ourselves about who we are as a nation. Those stories have a lot of power and influence over how we view the world, but often, they’re not Biblical. Dr. Rah will help us look at some of the narratives of our culture and help us see them more clearly. We’ll also look at how we can use lament to begin to create counter-narratives that are more honest and helpful.

**Pre-study questions\***

1. We don’t often sing songs of lament or use Scriptures of lament in worship, but that’s not true in the Bible. More than 1/3 of the Psalms can be classified as psalms of lament. Read Psalm 12 as an example. Think about something that is causing your heart to grieve and write a prayer of lament about it.
2. What qualities and attributes in a person does our American culture value?
3. Read Matthew 5:3-12. What qualities and attributes does Jesus value?
4. **Verses used in talk by Dr. Soong-Chan Rah** \*(could be studied before talk or after)
**Scripture on Lament**In addition to the book of Lamentations, over 1/3 of the Psalms can be classified as laments.
Psalm 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 17, 22, 25, 26, 28, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64, 69, 70, 71, 74, 77, 79, 80, 83, 85, 86, 88, 90, 94, 102, 109, 123, 126, 130, 134, 137, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144

II. Watch **Corporate Sin and Corporate Responsibility** by Dr. Soong-Chan Rah (39:03 minutes)
 Note: A Fill-In the Blank partial transcript page is available to print out and use – this can be a great way to follow the talk. There is also a Fill-In Answer Key. Both are in the Appendix.

\*used with permission from Bellevue Presbyterian Church

III. **Discussion Questions:**
Note: There will probably not be enough time to go through all of these questions. It would be helpful to read through these ahead of time to get an idea of which questions you want to use. The idea is not to get through as many questions as possible but to engage with the content of the talk in a deep, meaningful way.

1. Phil Vischer starts his “Holy Post – Race in America” video by asking why people are upset about racial injustice and then gives multiple historical facts and pieces of data to show why. Which of these stood out to you? In what ways has this changed or not changed your opinion about systemic racial problems in the United States?
2. What did you think of Dr. Rev. Rah’s explanation of social structures (externalization, objectification/institutionalization, and internalization)? How does this affect your understanding of the term “institutional racism”?
3. Dr. Rah talked about “mediating narratives” and the fuel that is needed to keep them going? Do you believe there are mediating narratives and fuel in our society that promotes racism and unjust systems? Why or why not?
4. According to Dr. Rah, “mediating narratives are so powerful that even if you do away with the systems and structures the narrative will find another way to express itself.” He says that even though we did away with slavery, we “never got rid of narrative that drove the system in the first place.” Do you agree with him? How do you think this affects or does not affect life in the United States today?
5. The way to change the negative narratives and the fuel that keeps them going, according to Dr. Rah, is to create counter-narratives. Do you feel that the church has effectively created counter-narratives to the lies in place related to racism? Is so, how? If not, why not?
6. Dr. Rah talks about the “strong strain of exceptionalism and triumphalism” that is an American cultural idea and not a Biblical concept. He asks how we can lament better as a church. What is your opinion of these ideas?
7. According to Dr. Rah, “If we see the world through that hyper individualistic personalized lens we will miss the evil around us” and will not address “evil in its proper geography.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
8. What image or story from Dr. Soong-Chan Rah’s presentation will stay with you after tonight? Why?
9. Dr. Rah started the talk by saying that without disruption and confusion, we wouldn’t grow. What made you uncomfortable during this presentation? What growth opportunities - for you personally, or our faith community - might this be pointing to?

IV. **Post- study**

1. If you would like some additional Biblical perspective on tonight’s subject, Corporate Sin and Corporate Responsibility, here are three resources.
	1. A blog post called, Corporate Sin and Personal Humility <https://fromthestudy.com/2006/06/07/coporate-sin-and-personal-humility/>
	2. A talk by pastor, theologian and apologist Rev.Tim Keller, whose Redeemer Church hosted the conference that all of our talks have come from, called “Racism and Corporate Evil: A White Guy’s Perspective.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhJJcTKTVGo> (26 min.)
	3. Post-Study Questions\*:
		1. Read Genesis 2:16-17 and 3:1-5. What instructions did God give Adam? How did Satan change the narrative in his dialogue with Eve?
		2. Read Matthew 4:1-11
		3. In this passage, Jesus and the devil seem to have competing narratives on what it means to be the Son of God. What are the elements of Satan’s narrative?
			1. How does Jesus respond to Satan’s narrative?
			2. In verse 6, Satan quotes Psalm 91:11-12. Do you see any connection between this exchange and how we should examine narratives in our culture?
2. One of the things that the talk next week talks about is blind spots we often have in regards to racial issue. Related to that, here are three articles to read before next week if possible.
	1. Two articles on the idea of racial colorblindness:
	- Jesus is not Colorblind - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/jesus-isnt-colorblind/> (this one is medium length)
	- 4 Reasons You Shouldn’t be Colorblind (short) - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/4-reasons-you-shouldnt-be-colorblind/>
	2. This article is pretty comprehensive – called “What Does the Bible Say About Racism” (long article but lots of good information)

<https://www.denisonforum.org/resources/what-does-the-bible-say-about-racism/>

1. **Recommended Resources**

*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michele Alexander

\*used with permission from Bellevue Presbyterian Church