Study Guide # 5 – Asianizing Christianity to the Animist World (Chapters 12&17)

This study guide, based on chapters 12 and 17, examines how "Asianization"—defined as authentic indigenisation and contextualisation—applies to animistic contexts like Sumba and Kalimantan. The guide highlights the importance of understanding existing beliefs and worldviews as a bridge for Gospel communication, contrasting traditional animistic and biblical perspectives, and exploring methods for discipling Christian leaders. It also addresses potential difficulties such as syncretism and cultural resistance, emphasizing the crucial role of cultural understanding and the development of a Christian community .

Here are 6 questions for the Study Guide based on chapters 12 and 17:

Question 1: How does the concept of "Asianisation" as discussed in the book relate to sharing the Gospel with animistic communities, based on the experiences in Sumba (Chapter 12) and Kalimantan (Chapter 17)?

Question 2: According to Chapter 17, what are some key differences between the traditional Dayak worldview and the biblical worldview? Provide at least three specific examples.

Question 3: What methods did the Asia College of Ministry (ACOM) training in Kalimantan (Chapter 17) employ to disciple Dayak Christian leaders in a way that addresses their animistic background?

Question 4: Based on Chapter 12 and the challenges faced by churches in Sumba, what are some potential difficulties in Asianizing the Gospel in an animistic context?

Question 5: How crucial is understanding the local culture when attempting to share the Gospel with animistic communities, according to the insights from Chapter 17?

Question 6: What role does the development of a "Christian habitus" or community play in the discipleship of individuals coming from an animistic background, as suggested in Chapter 17?