

GROUPS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GENESIS GROUPS TARGET

The goal of your time together is to grow in your relationship with Jesus and to help others do the same. To disciple people well, there are three areas in which this guide is designed to help you engage with each other and with Scripture. Those areas are the **head**, the **heart**, and the **hands**.

HEAD

God has created us to be intellectual beings, but this doesn't mean that we have to study the scriptures at an academic level to understand them. But we must process them with our minds if we want them to take root in our hearts.

HEART

After we have sought to engage the scriptures with our minds, the truth of God's word begins to take root in our hearts. This is where real internal change begins to take place. We believe that scripture is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12) through the work of the Holy Spirit, and it is his work that changes us into a greater representation of Jesus.

HANDS

This is where our faith begins to take action. It is the overflow of our hearts that prompts the action of our hands. As we let the truth of God do its work on our hearts the natural overflow is for it to be displayed in action. From our worship to our serving to how we engage with others, it is all an overflow of what is in our hearts.

Leader note:

Remember, this is a guide, not a recipe. This is meant to help you guide your conversation with your group, but it does not have to be precisely followed. Trust the Spirit to guide your conversation & follow wherever he may lead it.

Before working through this guide, spend time talking about anything that is still on your mind from Sunday's message.

HEAD

Read Exodus 17:8-15 out loud together.

This was the first battle the Israelites faced after leaving Egypt, and according to these verses, the Amalekite attack was completely unprovoked. This is the first time we see Israel play an active part in a battle. Even though the Israelites were active in this conflict, it's clear that the victory belonged solely to God.

1. **What do you think were some of the first thoughts that came to the mind of the Israelites when they were attacked?**
2. **Why do you think Moses made a point of taking the "staff of God" with him up the hill?**
3. Aaron and Hur seem to be the kind of support network for Moses that he could call on at any time and they would come help. We all need to have these types of relationships in our life. **Who are some of the people in your life that meet this need? Have you ever told them or thanked them for that?**

HEART

Read Exodus 18:5-12 out loud together.

Moses is finally reunited with his wife and sons when Jethro—his father-in-law—shows up. After greeting him and his family, Moses sits them down to tell the entire story of what God had done since they last saw each other. With great excitement, Moses told the entire story of how God acted to liberate and save his people.

1. Think about a time when God acted on your behalf: it could be a time he provided for a need, a time he protected you, or something else altogether. **What emotions stir up in you when you tell that story?**
2. **How do you feel about sharing that story with someone who isn't a follower of Jesus?**
3. Jethro responded to the story of God's actions by acknowledging that there is no one like God in all the earth and worshiping God. **Why do you think we downplay the importance of telling others how God has worked in our lives?**

HANDS

Read Exodus 18:17-24 out loud together.

Throughout his time leading the Israelites, Moses served as judge, prophet, and even intercessor. He communicated to the people for God, pleaded for the people before God, and prayed for the people when they needed God. When we turn to the gospels we see Jesus fulfill all of these roles for his followers.

1. Jethro told Moses to live as God's representative among the people. **What does this mean for our context in 2024?**
2. Moses served as an intercessor for the people of Israel, and Hebrews 7:25 and Romans 8:34 talk about Jesus as our intercessor. **Besides people in this group, who are people in your life for whom you can serve as an intercessor?**
3. Jethro gave Moses some very wise leadership advice, it also highlights that all people are called to participate in ministry. **What are ways you would like to use your gifts to participate in ministry?**

CLOSING

Spend time praying for each other's needs and also opportunities to take an active role in ministering to others.