

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 jumping into the guide, discuss anything from the weekend message that stuck out to you.

HEAD

Read Exodus 1:6-17 out loud together.

When Exodus picks up we learn that Abraham's descendants are well on their way to becoming the nation God had promised (Gen. 12). His family had grown so large that it caused the ruling pharaoh to grow fearful of losing power. With increasing anxiety and paranoia, and in an effort to ensure his political longevity, Pharaoh enacted brutal policies against God's people.

- 1. What are your internal warning signs when you are in a state of extreme stress or fear?**
- 2. Shiphrah and Puah showed faithful courage in the face of evil, and understood that God's laws superseded man's laws. How would you describe the contrast between Pharaoh and these two women?**

Read Exodus 2:1-10 out loud together.

- 1. Moses' mother goes to desperate lengths in an attempt to save her child. What kind of questions do you think ran through her mind as she put Moses in a floating basket?**
- 2. What evidence of God's provision do you see in the arrangement between Moses' biological family and Pharaoh's daughter?**

HEART

Read Exodus 2:11-17 out loud together.

Moses was a third-culture person, one who has a "mixed identity...influenced both by their parents' culture and the culture in which they are raised."¹

- 1. What kind of emotions do you think Moses felt being a child of Hebrew descent raised partly by his biological family and partly by the Egyptian royal family?**
- 2. How did Moses' unique multicultural background play into the larger story God had planned for the Hebrew people?**
- 3. Moses' first attempt to deliver the Hebrews was an abject failure.² He tried to right a wrong, but he acted outside of God's call. What lesson for our relationship with God and people might we find in this story?**

HANDS

In these first two chapters of Exodus, we find examples of faithfulness even in the most dire circumstances and the most dysfunctional systems. Shiphrah, Puah, and Moses' biological mother and sister show us what it looks like to trust God no matter how difficult things seem. And though Moses created more problems by acting rashly and taking justice into his own hands, his empathy and passion remind us just how important it is to care for the oppressed.

- 1. When was a time when you had to remind yourself to place your trust in God despite what was going on around you?**
- 2. What challenges are you facing now? How is God inviting you to choose faithfulness and trust in him?**
- 3. When you look around our community, how might you follow the example of Shiphrah, Puah, and Moses' mother and sister to intervene and care for the oppressed?**

CLOSING

Spend time praying for each other's needs and for increased faithfulness to trust God in the face of these needs or challenges.

¹<https://www.merriam-webster.com/wordplay/third-culture-kid>

² Rydelnik, Michael, and Michael G. Vanlaningham. *The Moody Bible Commentary*. Moody Publishers, 2014.