

# 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.*

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**Before jumping into the text, spend some time catching up as a group and discussing anything from the weekend message that stuck out to you.**

## **HEAD**

**Read Exodus 19:1-8 out loud together.**

After two months of traveling through the desert, the Israelites finally ended up exactly where God told Moses they would back in Exodus 3:12. This time at the mountain became as formative for Israel as the burning bush conversation was for Moses; it marked a new stage in God's covenant with them. God rescued them because of his covenant with Abraham, and now he's communicating the terms to the Israelite people.<sup>1</sup>

1. In verse 4 God talks about rescuing Israel to bring them to himself. **What do you think this tells us about God's character? How do you think the Israelites understood this?**
2. God was reminding Israel that he had already saved them before he asked or required anything of them. **How do you see this connecting to what it means to follow Jesus today?**
3. In the weekend message, we learned that the phrase treasured possession can also be translated as royal property. **How would you describe what it means to be God's "treasured possession"? How is this reflected in the message of Jesus?**

## **HEART**

**Read Exodus 19:9-19 out loud together.**

These verses may seem odd to us. God just told them he brought them out of Egypt to bring them to himself, and now he tells them not to come too close. Even though he chose them as his treasured possessions and wanted them to be a "holy nation" they weren't ready to be in proximity to him because of his holiness. Then, when God met Moses on the mountain, they understood why.

1. The Israelites saw God's absolute authority on display through the plagues in Egypt, but at Sinai, they were confronted by his holiness. **Which do you think would be more overwhelming?**
2. **How can fear be a healthy aspect of our relationship with God?**
3. Because of the finished work of Jesus, we have unrestricted access to God and we don't need to be afraid of him, but it is good for us to have a healthy respect for who he is and how holy he is. **When was a time you were gripped by the reality of God's holiness? What was that like?**

## **HANDS**

Israel was chosen by God to be a people who would live as a holy nation in the world. God was calling them to be his representatives to the nations around them; they were to live so differently that it displayed God's character. As modern-day followers of Jesus, we too have been chosen as a treasured possession and called to live a life of holiness. **Read 1 Peter 1:15-16 and 2:9 out loud together.**

1. **What do you think it looks like to live a holy life in 2024?**
2. Being chosen by God is not about receiving blessings, but about living as representatives of Jesus. **In what tangible ways can you reflect Jesus' character regularly?**

## **CLOSING**

Spend time praying for each other's needs.

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<sup>1</sup> John Goldingay | Exodus & Leviticus For Everyone, pg. 76