

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 Exodus, spend some time catching up as a group. After a little while, discuss anything from the weekend message that stuck out to you.

HEAD

Read Exodus 5:1-14 out loud together.

Right away Moses and Aaron experience the difficulties that can come with practicing obedience to God. It's important to note that God never promised that liberating his people would be easy, but did promise HIS presence and that HE would be successful.

1. **Why do you think Moses and Aaron first asked Pharaoh to allow the Israelites to go into the wilderness for a festival, instead of releasing them altogether?**
2. In Exodus 4:21 God told Moses that Pharaoh's heart would be hardened. **Why do you think Moses seemed caught off guard by Pharaoh's response?**
3. **What kind of benefit could Moses, Aaron, and the Israelites gain from their liberation not coming as easily as they perhaps expected?**

HEART

Read Exodus 5:21-6:8 out loud together.

Moses' response to this was to turn to God, but again we see him question why God chose him. Moses didn't have scripture to hold onto or look back on like we do. So God reassured Moses that Pharaoh would see God's "mighty hand" liberate the Israelites. God also recounts that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob knew God as a promise-making God, but Moses' generation would know him as a promise-keeping God.¹

1. **When was a time you were obedient to what God asked of you, and things got harder? How did you respond to that difficulty?**
2. **When was a time you saw God's sovereignty displayed in your past? How has that affected how you navigate difficult seasons now?**
3. **What are steps you take to remind yourself of God's faithfulness when it seems like he is not following through on his promises?**

HANDS

The Bible makes it pretty clear that Moses and Aaron do not start as shining examples of obedience or faithfulness; it took a while for that to develop. What we have to remember is that God is the main character in Exodus, so we need to look at his continued faithfulness in every situation and trust His promises.

1. Moses needed to be reminded of God's promise to him and His promise to Moses' ancestors. **What would you say to someone who is struggling to trust in God's faithfulness? Who is someone in your life who needs to be reminded of God's faithfulness?**
2. God has promised to liberate us, redeem us, adopt us as his own, and give us an inheritance. **Read 2 Corinthians 1:20 and discuss how these promises find their "yes" in Jesus.**

CLOSING

Spend time praying for each other's needs.

¹Rydellnik & Vanlaningham, Moody Bible Commentary