

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 7:1-7 out loud together.

Throughout Scripture, signs and wonders inspire awe and demonstrate the power and presence of the Almighty. In story after story, including the account of the plagues in Exodus, we see how God leaves no doubt that his power prevails over all other powers and it is he alone who saves.

1. **Why do you think God took such drastic measures before he delivered the Israelites?**
2. Some scholars consider the “plagues” in Exodus a direct assault on the false gods of Egypt. **How does this change your understanding of the plagues knowing they were directed at the Egyptian false gods, not the Egyptian people?**¹
3. Egyptians depended on false gods of water, land, and sky for their security and prosperity. **What are some things that serve as false gods of security and prosperity in our culture today?**

HEART

Read Exodus 9 out loud together.

Throughout the account of the plagues, we read that Pharaoh willfully hardened his heart toward God and the Israelites. It was only after Pharaoh defiantly positioned himself against God that we read of a couple of instances where God hardened Pharaoh’s heart.

1. **What does it tell us about God’s character that he only hardened Pharaoh’s heart after Pharaoh decided to harden his own heart? When have you noticed a hardness of heart in yourself?**
2. At times Pharaoh appears to almost give in and obey God’s orders before going back to a stubborn hardness of heart. **What do you think prompted Pharaoh’s repeated acts of “false repentance?”**
3. Read **Exodus 10:1-2** out loud together. **Why do you think God instructed the Israelites to tell their children and grandchildren how he dealt with the Egyptians?**

HANDS

The phrase “so you will know” is repeated approximately 8 times throughout Exodus 7-11; it is directed toward Pharaoh, the Egyptian people, and the Israelites. **Exodus 9:16** highlights the truth that through this epic story, God’s name will be proclaimed “*in all the earth.*” Clearly, God desires that people come to “know him” not just to know about him.

1. **What is it that God wants Pharaoh, the Egyptians, and the Israelites to know? How does this knowledge impact your view of God or your relationship with God now?**
2. Moses and Aaron were sent to proclaim God’s name and power before Pharaoh; likewise the Israelites were instructed to tell future generations about how God redeemed them. **Who is God sending you to share his power and goodness with this week?**

CLOSING

Spend time praying for each other’s needs, as well as opportunities to share how God has worked in your life.

¹Tony Merida - Christ-Centered Exposition | Exodus