

# 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, discuss anything from the weekend message that stuck out to you.**

## **HEAD**

**Read Exodus 12:1-11 out loud together.**

Exodus 12 starts with instructions for what the Israelites were supposed to eat the night before they left Egypt, but this was far more than dinner plans. The instructions communicated God's intent to get his people out in a hurry and provided them an opportunity to display trust in his promise.

1. The instructions for making the meal seem to engage all the senses. **When you think of holidays you celebrate with your family, what sights, smells, and sounds do you look forward to?**
2. The Passover was such a pivotal moment in the Israelites' history, that God made it the beginning of their year and made a lasting ordinance that it is to be celebrated every year. **Why do you think God reset their calendar for Passover to be the very first celebration?**
3. After spending over 400 years in Egypt, God told the Israelites to eat this meal fully dressed and ready to go at a moment's notice.<sup>1</sup> **What kind of emotions do you think this stirred up in the Israelites?**

## **HEART**

**Read Exodus 12:12-13 out loud together.**

In verse 7 God instructed the Israelites to use some of the blood from the lamb on the doorposts of their home. In these verses we see the purpose, *"The blood will be a sign for you...and when I see the blood, I will pass over you."* In several of the first 9 plagues, God made a distinction between his people and Egyptians without any need for a sign.

1. **What could be the significance of God calling this a sign for the Israelites?**
2. The act of daubing the blood on the doorposts was an act of obedience on the part of the Israelites which displayed their trust in God's promise to pass over their home. **What are ways you can display the same trust through obedience to Christ?**
3. Read **Hebrews 9:22** and **1 John 1:7** out loud. Thanks to the finished work of Jesus we no longer need to rely on repeated sacrifices for forgiveness. **Why do you think we still try to work for our forgiveness? What would it look like for you to rest in the promise that Jesus has accomplished all that was needed for you to be forgiven?**

## **HANDS**

**Read Exodus 12:44-49 out loud together.**

From the beginning, God made an allowance for non-Israelites to participate in the Passover. This speaks to his desire that all would come to know him as LORD and live in a relationship with him. John Goldingay in his commentary points out, *"...Israel is totally open to people from other ethnic groups joining the covenant community. You do not have to be born an Israelite in order to be part of God's people."*<sup>2</sup>

1. **What does it mean to you to be a member of the people of God?**
2. Being adopted into the people of God gives us the freedom we couldn't find anywhere else, but it also comes with the privilege of representing God in our community. **How might living that way attract others to Jesus?**

## **CLOSING**

Spend time praying for each other's needs as a group.

---

<sup>1</sup> Tony Merida | Christ-Center Exposition - Exodus

<sup>2</sup> John Goldingay | Exodus & Leviticus for Everyone