

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 13:17-14:4 out loud together.

As the Israelites head out of Egypt, God takes them in an unexpected direction toward the desert. Throughout the Bible, we see God do something no one would expect to accomplish his specific purpose.

1. **When was a time while traveling that a shortcut didn't work out the way you thought it would?**
2. **What do you think the Israelites thought of going in the direction God took them instead of along a well-traveled route?**
3. The Israelites had no idea they were about to spend 40 years in the desert. **When was a time God seemingly "delayed" acting or accomplishing something in your life? What purpose, if any, can you see for that delay?**

HEART

Read Exodus 14:10-18 out loud together.

It's easy for us to sympathize with the fear the Israelites expressed as they saw the Egyptian army chasing after them. They had nowhere to run, and before Egypt was even out of sight they were faced with the question: *Will God come through for us?* We have the luxury of reading this account thousands of years after the fact, but when we're in a moment that seems hopeless we're faced with the exact same question.

1. **Describe a time when you didn't understand what God was trying to accomplish at the moment but later recognized how he was fighting for you.**
2. God told the people to stand still and trust that he would protect them (Ex. 14:13-14). **How easy is it for you to stay still and let God work out his plan? What helps you to trust God when it doesn't feel easy?**

HANDS

Read Exodus 15:1-21 out loud together.

After the Israelites make it through the Red Sea, their very first response is to worship God. Worship and praise are a natural response to God's salvation.¹ This is part of why we sing together at weekend services—it's not about the quality of singing, it's about the posture of the heart.

1. **What descriptions of God's character most resonate with you from the songs of Moses and Miriam?**
2. **What place do praise and worship have in your daily life? How might you be more intentional and expressive in praise and worship?**
3. **What are some acts of God in recent events or your personal history that you would like to praise him for today?**

CLOSING

Spend time praying for each other's needs and thanking God for his unchanging character.

¹ Tony Merida | Christ-Centered-Exodus