

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

HEAD

Read Exodus 15:22-27 out loud together.

As God led Israel away from the Red Sea, where he once again interceded to rescue them, he led them into a literal desert. Almost immediately the Israelites begin to grumble and complain about God's choice of action. This sounds like a child throwing a tantrum, but it also reminds us that they didn't entirely trust God to provide for them yet.

1. **What does grumbling or complaining communicate to someone who has given you a gift?**
2. **What would you say to someone who is grumbling about how God has chosen to act?**
3. For many Christians, it's easy for us to trust God with our eternal salvation, but harder to trust with the issues right in front of us. **Why do you think this is? Where do you see this in your life?**

HEART

Read Exodus 16:1-20 out loud together.

Time in the desert was an intentional decision God made. Philip Ryken said, "*Going through the wilderness was not necessary for Israel's salvation, but it was necessary for their sanctification.*"¹ Essentially God wanted to teach them what it meant to be in a relationship with him, not with pharaoh or the false gods of Egypt. Learning to trust and obey was vital.

1. The goal of "desert seasons" is to help us look and act more like Jesus. **In what ways have "desert seasons" been formative in your life with Christ?**
2. **In what ways have you seen God restore parts of your life through a desert experience?**

Read Exodus 16:23-30 out loud together.

3. After 400-plus years in Egypt, God gives the Israelites a command to rest one day a week. **In what areas of your life do you need to intentionally rest in God's goodness?**

HANDS

Read Matthew 26:36-42 out loud together.

Jesus is the quintessential picture of living with total trust in God. His prayers in the garden of Gethsemane stand in direct contrast to the grumbling of the Israelites in the desert. One is an example of true maturity while the other is an example of immaturity.

1. **How can trust and obedience in God's will reflect Jesus' character to those around you?**
2. **What benefit could come from a more Christ-like maturity?**
3. **What steps can you take to move toward Christ-like maturity?**

CLOSING

Spend time praying for each other's needs, a growing Christ-like maturity, and for Genesis' Easter services.

¹ Philip Ryken | Exodus pg. 414