

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 working through this guide, take some time to discuss anything from this weekend's message that stood out to you.

HEAD

There are a lot of key pieces of the Israelite identity that tie back to their time at Sinai. If we zoom in on Moses though we learn something really important about priorities and consistency. At 80-plus years old, Moses made 7 trips up and down Mount Sinai. When others were afraid, he went to speak to God, and when he took Aaron and community leaders up with him they stopped halfway. Clearly, Moses had a deep love and reverence for the Lord, and he lived both of those out with consistency.

1. Moses had a pattern of meeting with God, and we see Jesus do the same in the gospels. **When it comes to your faith, why is personal consistency so important?**
2. **What are ways that you practice dedicated time with God?**
3. **What are some of the obstacles that make consistent time with God difficult?**

HEART

Read Exodus 22:21-31 out loud together

From the time the Israelites arrived at Sinai to just before they entered the Promised Land, God gave them a total of 613 commands. These laws aren't completely judicial like we would expect, but they're designed to help people understand what it means to live in a covenant relationship with God and in a community with others. Like prioritizing time with God, these laws are not given just so we can check them off a list and feel good. These laws are meant to help God's people reflect his character.

1. **What are some of the common themes you see in these laws?**
2. God told the Israelites not to "mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for *you were foreigners* in Egypt." How can this apply to us today? **What's the importance of remembering where God has rescued you from? How does that help us view others in similar circumstances?**
3. God has an eye for the vulnerable and the at-risk. **Who do you see as the vulnerable and the at-risk in our community?**

HANDS

Read Exodus 23:1-13 out loud together.

This section of verses is typically referred to as laws of justice and mercy. Justice and mercy are key characteristics of God that his people are called to emulate. It takes wisdom and knowing God's ways to accurately reflect his character.

1. **What other words would you use to describe God's character?**
2. Commands about someone's donkey seem odd and out of date for us; **compare that with what Jesus says in Luke 6:32-36, and have someone read it out loud.**
3. Repeatedly God calls his people to a higher standard, to be holy as he is holy. In these verses, Jesus does the same. **What would it look like for you to intentionally live the way Jesus described?**

CLOSING

Spend time praying for each other's needs and for wisdom to model the way of Jesus well.