

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

Read Exodus 25:1-9 out loud together.

Throughout Exodus God takes very intentional steps to demonstrate his faithfulness to the covenant he made with Abraham. He rescues his people, he shows them his glory on Mount Sinai, and now as he shares plans for building the Tabernacle, he is moving into their neighborhood, so to speak. This was a radical idea for the Israelites, and for other ancient Near East people groups, that the true God would want to dwell among his people.

1. At Mount Sinai, the people were afraid of God's glory and holiness. **How do you think they may have initially responded when they heard that he wanted to dwell among them?**
2. From the first pages of the Bible, we see God's desire to be among his creation and in communion with his image-bearing people. **Why do you think God continued to choose this despite the rebellion and shortcomings of the Israelites?**
3. Moses' journey up the mountain shows an intentionality in seeking God's presence. **How are you being intentional in seeking the Lord's presence right now? If you struggle to be intentional, what's holding you back?**

HEART

Read Exodus 35:4-29 out loud together.

From Adam and Eve cultivating the garden in Genesis to Paul and his friends co-laboring with God in their missionary journeys, God invites his people to participate in his plans. In Exodus, God provides a very specific plan when it comes to building the Tabernacle, and he invites the Israelites to take an active role in providing the materials. God instructs Moses to take an offering and invite the community to participate, yet this command does not come with a sense of coercion but of collaboration.

1. **What stands out to you as you read the list of raw materials and craftsmanship required for this sacred project? What words and phrases show the attitude God desires as his people contribute these things for the Tabernacle?**
2. Between Jethro's recommendation to share the load of leadership, and God's invitation to serve; we see that ministry is meant to be shared. **How might each individual's choice to participate affect the whole community?**

HANDS

Read Exodus 35:30-36:7 out loud together.

After the Israelites bring their materials to the leaders, the construction stage begins, and God empowers people with specialized gifts and skills to bring his vision to reality. God has gifted each of his people in a unique way, and all work together in the power of the Spirit to accomplish God's plans and make his presence evident.

1. **How has God blessed you and the members of your group with special gifts and skills?**
2. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 out loud. What dangers come from comparing our service to God with how someone else serves?**
3. **What steps may God be asking you to take to be a co-laborer? Or to serve in a new way?**

CLOSING

Spend time praying for each other's needs and also that our church family would use their unique gifts to participate in God's plans.