

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 28:1-5 out loud together.

God specifically chose Aaron and his descendants to serve him as priests for the entire nation of Israel. He also gave Moses detailed instructions regarding the priestly garments and how to consecrate the priests. These details matter because they helped the Israelites—and us—understand the holiness of God, but they also point forward to Jesus and his role as our intercessor.

1. **When was a time you were specifically chosen for something? How did that feel?**
2. The clothing for priests while they were “on duty” was very different from normal Israelite attire. **What purpose do you think this served? Why did it matter?**
3. **What modern-day examples can you think of where a person’s attire sets them apart? What does that say about the position that person holds?**

HEART

Read Exodus 29:15-21 out loud together.

In Exodus 19:5-6 God tells Israel they will be a kingdom of priests among the nations; now God is setting apart Aaron and his sons as priests. In the same way that Israel was called to show other people groups what living in a relationship with God was like, Aaron and his sons were to do that for the people of Israel.

1. **In what ways are all Christians set apart like priests?**¹
2. Living in a way that reflects God’s character in our culture isn’t always easy. **What makes it hard for you to live according to God’s ways? What benefits come from living God’s way?**
3. Moses put blood on the right ear lobe, thumb, and big toe of Aaron and his sons. Some commentators have said this tells us that we must be careful of who we listen to, what we do with our hands, and where we go. **What steps do you take to be careful of who you listen to, what you do, and where you go?**

HANDS

Read Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:23-28 out loud together.

Thanks to the finished work of Jesus we no longer have to rely on human priests; instead, we have direct access to God. This doesn’t give us permission to approach him flippantly though; we need to respect his holiness while trusting in his goodness.

1. **Why do you think it matters that Jesus was “tempted in every way” we are (Heb. 4:15)?**
2. **What do you think it means to approach God with confidence?**
3. **Why does it matter that Jesus “intercedes” for us?**
4. The author says Jesus is “a high priest who truly meets our need…” in verse 26. **How would you describe what that means to someone?**

CLOSING

Spend time praying for each other’s needs.

¹ Tony Merida, Christ-Centered Exposition | Exodus