

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 32:1-6 out loud together.

This is one of the most well-known stories in Exodus and—like the fall in Genesis 3—it shows the human propensity to choose our way over God's. When the Israelites felt unsure that Moses would come back to lead them they turned to the guy who had been with Moses at every step of their journey, Aaron.

- 1. What do you think was going through the minds of the Israelites when they went to Aaron?**
- 2. Why do you think Aaron was so quick to accommodate the request to “make gods” for the people?**
- 3. When was a time that you were unsure God would lead you and you chose your way instead?**

HEART

Read Exodus 32:7-14 out loud together.

When all of this happened at the foot of Sinai, God was rightfully angry. The very people he liberated from slavery and saved at the Red Sea already turned away from him. In Exodus 20 God re-established the terms of his covenant with Israel, and the worship of the golden calf immediately broke those terms. In his anger, God was ready to *“abandon the people and start again with Moses, as [he] had once abandoned the world as a whole and started again with Noah.”*¹

- 1. What emotions would you use to describe what God may have felt when the Israelites chose an idol over him?**
- 2. What do you notice about the way Moses approached talking God out of destroying the Israelites? What can we learn about prayer from this?**
- 3. What are the reasons that Moses gave for why God should not destroy his people? (Ex. 32:11-13)**

HANDS

Read Exodus 32:15-20; 30-32 out loud together.

After God chose to show mercy to the Israelites, Moses went down the mountain to confront them. Moses was so angry that he threw the tablets with the Ten Commandments on them and they broke at the foot of the mountain. Old Testament scholar John Goldingay suggests that Moses destroyed the tablets *“because the people destroyed the relationship [the tablets] embodied.”*² Thankfully the story didn't end there; because Moses was committed to interceding for the people and because God is *“abounding love and faithfulness”* (Psalms 86:15).

- 1. How does Moses' willingness to intercede for the people's sin and God's willingness to relent from his anger echo the message of the gospel for us?**
- 2. How does Moses' call for repentance in verse 26 apply to us today?**
- 3. What are some practical applications from this story for our everyday lives?**

CLOSING

Spend time praying for each other's needs.

¹ John Goldingay | Exodus & Leviticus for Everyone

² John Goldingay | Exodus & Leviticus for Everyone