



# GENESIS GROUP GUIDE

## SCRIPTURE DEVOTION

Last week we marveled at the awesome power of our transcendent triune God creating all things by the word of his mouth. However, this week we will zero in on one particular part of his creation story, his creation of man & woman. In Genesis 2, we will see God's intentional and personal presence breathe life into mankind. Made in his very image and planted in the Garden in Eden, man and woman are given a place, provisions, and restrictions so they can enjoy God's presence forever. They are also given the responsibility of keeping the garden and the mission of filling the earth and subduing it, multiplying the praise and worship of God throughout the earth as they rest in him.

## GENERAL SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

*Read Genesis 2:4-25 individually or aloud giving a few minutes for reflection & prayer.*

- What does this text say about God?
  - How would you describe God after reading this passage? What do you learn about God's character and nature? How does this passage relate to how society defines God?
- What does this text say about people?
  - What do you learn about people's character and nature? How does this compare to what society says or believes about people?
- What does this text say about how we should live in light of what he has done?
  - What should I change in my life based on what I've read? Should I be praying about anything? Do I need to confess anything? Are there any promises I need to take hold of? What truths do I need to receive?

## TEXT-BASED ONE ANOTHERING QUESTIONS

*This time for group members to practice confession, repentance, accountability, biblical encouragement, etc. with the help of the Holy Spirit through his word.*

- In these verses (Genesis 2:4-25), we get a picture of God's more intimate or personal work of creation & care for the man & woman. We see him form man, create woman, breathe life into man's nostrils, plant the garden, place man in the garden, instruct the man, provide food, direction, protection, identity, etc.
  - How does seeing God as near, personal, and intentional in these verses encourage or challenge the way you think about God? Is it easier for you to think of him as transcendent or personal?
  - Can you think of a time recently that God has made his personal/intentional care obvious or apparent to you? Share that story & how it impacted you.
- Read Genesis 1:28. In this verse and Genesis 2:15, we see God give humankind responsibilities as his kingdom representatives. To work and keep the garden and be fruitful and multiply. These pre-fall instructions are given to man for he and creation's flourishing and God's glory. If these are the designs of God for mankind, how do you think we fulfill this calling today? In what ways does our culture try to draw us away from this work? In what ways are you tempted to cultivate a life outside of God's good design? In what ways are you tempted to believe God's design is not good?
- Read Genesis 2:16-17. In these verses, God commands the man to "eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat..." There are two commands in these verses, but we often focus on just one, the restriction God places on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
  - How do you think remembering his first command to eat of every tree (2:9) of the garden would impact your view of God and his provision? Would it change the way you see any current circumstances in your life?
  - Remembering that God's creation is "very good," why do you think God restricts man and woman from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
  - When you think of God's various restrictions for his people, how does your heart respond? In praise, worship, and thanksgiving? In frustration, confusion, and doubt? Maybe a bit of both?
  - How can your brothers and sisters help you? Whether a listening ear for your praises or your confessions.

# MISSION

## Evangelism

We want to be intentional in our everyday lives to have gospel conversations with people that don't know Jesus. These people God has placed in our path are not projects, but friends. Friends we long to see have the hope and joy of Christ! Have each group member choose one person they are going to pray for and initiate conversations with about Jesus. Each week, follow up:

- Were they able to share the gospel with them, encourage them, or pray with them this week?
- How can the group pray for the group member? How can the group pray for the person they are walking with?
- What is one next step they can take with this person? Can they ask them to church? To come to community group? Read the Bible together? Etc.

## Missions

We want to be mindful and prayerful for the work the Lord is doing in the world. There are tons of ways you can encourage your group members to engage in God's work around the world. Below are some ideas for this week:

- Read a recent update from your group's missionary/missionary family and pray for them.
- Ask group members if there is a particular international or local news story that has impacted them that they want to pray about.
- Ask your group members if there is anyone who would like to lead out and organize a place where the group can serve together sometime. (Soup kitchen, neighbor's home, etc.)
- Have someone in the group look at the "made in" tag in their shirt, spend time praying for that country.

# PRAYER

- Check in on life (ex. relationship with Christ (prayer & word), their marriages/singleness, children, etc.) to discover prayer needs.
- Spend time in confession & prayer for those who have shared areas of disbelief, wrong beliefs, sin, etc. during discussion time.
- If you have more time or separate time for men & women choose 1-2 questions on the following page for accountability time or create your own.

## ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

Knowing the members of your group, and having heard about their week, choose 1-2 questions for your time of confession, encouragement, & prayer. We have gathered these questions from various resources, so feel free to jump around this document or come up with your own questions to best serve your group.

- Have you been a testimony this week to the greatness of Jesus Christ with both your words and actions?
- Have you been exposed to sexually alluring material or allowed your mind to entertain inappropriate thoughts about someone who is not your spouse this week?
- Have you lacked any integrity in your financial dealings this week, or coveted something that does not belong to you?
- Have you been honoring, understanding and generous in your important relationships this past week?
- Have you damaged another person by your words, either behind their back or face-to-face?
- Have you given in to an addictive behavior this week? Explain.
- Have you continued to remain angry toward another?
- Have you secretly wished for another's misfortune so that you might excel?
- Did you finish your reading this week and hear from the Lord? What are you going to do about it?
- Did you spend significant time with God through His Word, prayer, quiet time, devotions, and other spiritual disciplines? How consistent? Is He your driving force?
- What blocks your growth in Christ? What blocks growth, in your other relationships, from becoming more mature and effectual?
- Have you faithfully served the Lord, His people, and the lost?
- Did you go and participate in church activities and worship this week? How so? Why not?
- Have you made your family a priority? What noteworthy activity or deed did you do for your spouse and/or family?
- How have you struggled with sin? What are the sins that have weighed down your walk with God this week?
- What did you do to enhance your relationship with your spouse/friends? What can you do to make that relationship better?
- In what ways has God blessed you this week? How have you shared your blessings?
- What disappointments did you face? Did they consume your thoughts? What did you do about it? What can you learn?
- Have you committed any sexual sin? Did you look at someone lustfully? Have you been alone in a compromising situation? Have you been flirtatious? Have you struggled with pornography or "romance novels?" Have you exposed yourself to any sexually oriented material? Did you put yourself in a situation with anyone that could appear to be compromising, even though it may not have been?
- Have you shared your faith? In what ways? How can you improve? Have you had an opportunity to share with a non-Christian?
- How well are you handling your finances right now? Have your financial dealings been questionable?
- Have you been trustworthy? Have you lied? Stolen? Cheated? Been dishonest or manipulative? Have you elevated yourself over another for your own personal agenda? What about your language and attitude?
- Have you been prideful? Have you been guilty of gossip or anger? Slandered? Shown indifference? Been greedy? Not controlled your tongue?
- Have you demonstrated a servant's heart? How so? What have you done for someone else this week?
- Did you struggle with a disappointment this week? How did you handle it?
- Have you respected and treated your classmates, co-workers and peers graciously by showing them compassion and the love of God in your words and deeds? What can you do to enhance your relationships here?
- How is your level of character, according to the comparison of Gal. 5:22-23 versus Gal. 5:19-21?
- How did you practice joy this week? Have you had a thankful attitude toward God? Have you struggled with anger toward God? How so? What can you do about it?
- Have you taken care of the temple of the Holy Spirit with rest, sleep, exercise, healthy eating, etc? What about addictions, gluttony, or substance abuse?
- Have you been honest while answering these questions? If not, how so? If not, why?
- How can we support you as a group?