

Small Group Guide: Genesis

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time with prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to understand His Word and how it applies to your lives today.

Introduction (5-10 minutes)

This session walked us through the entire book of Genesis, showing how it reveals God's plan for eternal life through a promised seed. Before diving into discussion, have someone briefly summarize the main storyline: from creation and the fall, through the promise of a coming deliverer, to the patriarchs who carried that promise forward.

Key Takeaways

1. **Genesis reveals the path to eternal life** - It's not just ancient history, but God's unfolding plan to restore humanity's access to Him.
2. **Two teams emerge from Genesis 3:15** - The seed of the woman (those who walk by faith in God's promise) and the seed of the serpent (those who do what's right in their own eyes).
3. **The blessing isn't about material prosperity** - It's about eternal life and access to God's presence through the promised seed.
4. **Israel's role is priestly** - They exist to mediate God's blessing of eternal life to the nations.
5. **The entire story points forward to Christ** - Joseph's story foreshadows the rejection and ultimate vindication of the Messiah.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Foundation (15 minutes)

1. **What was God's original design for humanity in the Garden?** How does understanding this help us grasp what was lost in the fall?

2. **The sermon emphasized Genesis 3:15 as crucial to the entire story.** Why is this significant?
3. **How do the two "teams" (seed of the woman vs. seed of the serpent) show up throughout Genesis?** Can you identify examples from the session?

Walking by Faith vs. Sight (20 minutes)

4. **The sermon contrasted those who "walk by faith" with those who "do what's right in their own eyes."** What are some examples from Genesis of each approach?
5. **How do we see this same tension in our own lives today?** Share an area where you're tempted to do what seems "good in your own eyes" rather than trusting God's Word.
6. **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all struggled with favoring the "wrong" son.** What does this pattern teach us about human nature and God's faithfulness despite our failures?

The Blessing and the Nations (15 minutes)

7. **The sermon stressed that "the blessing" isn't about material prosperity but eternal life.** How does our culture (and sometimes our churches) get this wrong? What are the consequences?
8. **Israel was called to be "a kingdom of priests" to the nations.** How does understanding Genesis help us see this priestly role more clearly?

Seeing Christ in Genesis (15 minutes)

9. **The sermon showed how Joseph's story foreshadows Christ.** What parallels stood out to you? How does this deepen your understanding of Jesus' mission?
10. **Throughout Genesis, God keeps the promise alive through unlikely people and impossible situations.** What does this tell us about God's character and His commitment to His promises?
11. **Genesis ends with Israel in Egypt, waiting for deliverance.** How does this "unfinished" feeling point us forward to the rest of Scripture and ultimately to Christ?

Closing Prayer (5-10 minutes)

Spend time in prayer together:

- **Thank God** for His faithfulness in keeping His promises throughout Genesis and throughout history

- **Confess** areas where you've been doing what's right in your own eyes rather than trusting His Word
- **Ask God** to help you walk by faith, not by sight
- **Pray for opportunities** to share the path of eternal life with others this week