

# Small Group Guide: Torah in the Writings

## Opening Prayer

Begin your time together with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to open hearts and minds to understand God's Word more deeply.

## Ice Breaker

Share one "general truth" you believed as a younger Christian that you now understand differently. What changed your perspective?

## Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The Hebrew Bible Structure:** Torah (Law), Nevi'im (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings) all point to the same story—God's plan of redemption through the promised Messiah.
2. **The Two Paths:** Throughout Scripture, there are only two paths—one leading to eternal life and one to eternal destruction.
3. **Proverbs Aren't "General Truths":** Proverbs are eternal truths understood in light of eternity, not temporary circumstances.
4. **Our Hope Is Not "Best Life Now":** The biblical solution isn't prosperity now, but resurrection and eternal life with Christ.
5. **Righteousness Delivers from Death:** This is always true when understood through the lens of eternal life, not temporal circumstances.

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Structure (15-20 minutes)

1. **Before this teaching, how did you view the relationship between the Old Testament books?** How does understanding the Hebrew Bible structure (Torah, Prophets, Writings) change your approach to reading these books?
2. **Read Psalm 1 together.** How does this psalm reflect the themes of Deuteronomy 6? What does it mean to "meditate on the law day and night" in light of the whole biblical story?

3. **The breakout session mentioned that Jesus referenced "the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms" (Luke 24:44).** What does this tell us about how Jesus viewed the Old Testament?

### **Challenging "General Truth" Theology (20-25 minutes)**

4. **Discuss the statement: "If something is generally true, it's not true."** Why is the concept of "general truths" problematic when reading Proverbs?
5. **Read Proverbs 10:2: "Ill-gotten gains do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death."**
  - How does this verse seem untrue from a worldly perspective?
  - How is it absolutely true from an eternal perspective?
6. **The sermon used the example of Abel, Stephen, and Jesus—all righteous, all killed.** How does this challenge "prosperity gospel" thinking? What would you say to someone who believes God always rewards faithfulness with earthly blessings?

### **The Book of Job and Suffering (15-20 minutes)**

7. **What was the theology of Job's friends?** Why was it wrong? How does Satan use this same theology to tempt believers today?
8. **Job's wife said, "Bless God and die."** What was she really saying?
9. **Read Romans 5:3-5 and James 1:2-4.** How do these passages help us understand suffering differently? What is God accomplishing through trials?

### **Eternal Perspective (15-20 minutes)**

10. **Read Psalm 37:1-11.** Count how many times this passage tells us not to worry about evildoers or to wait for the Lord. Why do we need this repeated reminder?
11. **The breakout session stated: "It is no fool who gives away what he cannot keep to attain what he cannot earn."** What does this mean practically in your life right now? What are you holding onto that you "cannot keep"?
12. **Ecclesiastes shows Solomon pursuing wealth, wisdom, fame, and pleasure—all ending in "vanity."** What modern equivalents do people pursue today thinking they'll bring fulfillment? How can we help each other avoid these empty pursuits?

### **Personal Reflection (10 minutes)**

Take a few minutes of silence for personal reflection on these questions:

- Where am I placing my hope—in temporal things or eternal things?
- What "ill-gotten gains" or worldly pursuits am I tempted to believe will bring me happiness?
- How would my daily life look different if I truly believed "the righteous will inherit the land" refers to eternal inheritance?
- What would change if I fully embraced that I'm a "dead person walking" toward either eternal life or eternal death?

## **Closing Discussion (10 minutes)**

**How can we pray for each other as we seek to live with an eternal perspective in a world obsessed with "best life now"?**

## **Closing Prayer**

Pray together, focusing on:

- Thanking God that our hope is secure in Christ's resurrection
- Asking for grace to release our grip on temporal things
- Requesting strength to endure trials with joy, knowing what God is producing
- Praying for an eternal perspective in daily decisions
- Asking God to help us meditate on His Word day and night