

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"CREATION: A GARDEN FOR A HOME" FEBRUARY 18

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Imagine you're looking through a crack in a doorway. You can see that there's something on the other side, but you can't see the whole picture. To really know what's on the other side you would have to open the door all the way. Reading the Bible can be like that. You might read a bit about David, or one of Jesus' parables, about Queen Esther or a talking donkey, some handwriting on the wall, and a guy that got shipwrecked. But how does it all fit together? What's the big picture of the Bible? Over six weeks, we're going to work our way through the one story that the Bible is telling, how God has been at work from the beginning in the Garden of Eden through the Old Testament to Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. We'll look back at what has happened and what it all means for what is happening now and what is to come.

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

PRAY

About 1 minute

Open with prayer.

2

BIG IDEA

A minute to read

In the beginning, God's creation was very good. In the garden paradise he planted, all of creation lived in harmony with him. But for two of his creatures, Adam and Eve, it wasn't enough. Their sin, eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, ushered in brokenness to God's good creation. The garden would never be home again. But even as they are sent away from the garden and into the consequences of their actions, a promise is given to them and to us. The promise of One who would make His home in the broken creation and bring restoration.

3

CONNECT

About 10 minutes

Name ad campaigns where the focus is for the customer get what they want, the way they want it, or that they simply deserve it. Why do you think these appeal to us?



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So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.
- John 1:14 NLT

Reflect

A prayer to start...Father, as I read your word, please open my ears to hear and my heart to surrender to your purposes today.

Read the full passage in your Bible - John 1:1-14.
What is something that is catching your attention from the passage? Pause here, camp on this a bit, be curious.

Jesus made his home among us. What does that stir...questions, gratitude, something else?

Ponder...have you experienced Jesus making his home in you? Do you notice any longing or desire for this?

4

DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.

Verse 14 notes Jesus was full of unfailing love and faithfulness (or grace and truth in some translations). Why are both of these attributes of God important? What would be the implications of receiving one and not the other?

Read Genesis 2:4-17. What good and perfect gifts did God provide in the garden?

Read Genesis 3:1-24. How did the serpent tempt Eve? How does the evil one tempt us in the same ways today? Where do you see God's grace and truth intervening here? What are the consequences of sin? What promise of restoration does God make in v 15?

We all desire for a place where we are fully known and unconditionally loved. Where there is justice and mercy. We were made to live in community with God. Do you tend to look to God first to fill these desires or somewhere else in life? Describe.



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

5 PRAY:

About 15 minutes

Read the prayer prompts and allow for a time of reflection. Ask each person to write a personal prayer request on an index card with their name at the top. Pass the index cards one person to the right.

Close the group with a circle prayer. The leader or apprentice will open in prayer and then have each person pray aloud for the card they hold, beginning with the person on their right. The leader or apprentice will close the prayer time at the end.

THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

Pray

Take this to prayer (from the prior question).

As you think about Jesus making his home in you, talk to him about what might need restoration or renewal in your life.

Thank God for the beautiful work he is doing in you (which you may or may not see clearly).

Live It Out

Is there a broken relationship between you and someone in your life?

As God for humility and restoration and reach out to that person. Begin the steps of reconciliation.

**Jesus, thank you for inviting me
into this LIFE of following you today!**

6

LIVE IT OUT:

About 2 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted.