

# SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"PROMISED LAND: AN IDENTITY CRISIS" MARCH 10

## 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*

Through the times of the Judges and the Kings, God's people continued in a cycle of rebellion, turning away from the true God to other gods. God disciplined His people by allowing foreign nations to prevail over them. The people cried out and God came to their rescue. Rinse and repeat. In Jesus, the cycle is broken as He took God's discipline on himself effecting the final rescue by defeating the power of sin.

3

### CONNECT

*About 10 minutes*

What are some words you would use to describe yourself to others? Have these descriptors changed over time? If so, share how and why they have changed.



**March 10, 2024**

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.  
- Isaiah 53:6 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 - Isaiah 53:1-6.**  
What is something that is catching your attention from the passage? Pause here, camp on this a bit, be curious.

Ponder all that Jesus willingly took on and carried. What thoughts, emotions, and even responses does that elicit?

Remember the times you left God's path to follow your own. Is there any truth to that at present in your life?

4

### DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

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

Re-read Isaiah 53:1-6 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does the concept of Jesus taking the punishment of our rebellion on himself resonate with you personally? How does it shape your understanding of God's grace and forgiveness?

Read Judges 2:16-23. Notice the repeated pattern of rebellion, discipline, and rescue among God's people. In what ways do you see the cycle of rebellion and rescue played out in your own life? How does Jesus' ultimate sacrifice break this cycle for believers?

Basing our identity on something other than Jesus, we find ourselves in the same cycle as Israel: chasing after something to give us a sense of identity, getting stuck in the consequences, and being unable to get free. 1 Peter 2:9-10 reaffirms our identity as royal priests, a holy nation, and God's own possession. How does embracing this identity impact the way we view ourselves and our role in God's kingdom?



### 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.

Break into pairs. Share your prayer request with the person you are paired with and pray aloud for each other in your pairs now.

# THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

## Pray

Talk to God about that last question under Reflect. If you notice anything that you simply need to repent of today go ahead and do that.

Notice the areas of your life where you have a propensity to rebel against God or a tendency toward independence. Be honest with God about that. Call out for his help.

Thank God for he laid the punishment you deserved on Jesus! He paid it all.

## Live It Out

*This week, pay closer attention to your heart, to times when you're more attentive or less so to God. Practice turning to him in those moments, inviting him to grow your dependence and trust.*

*Do you know someone who might also need to experience this? Pray for them and reach out to encourage them.*

**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.