

Before the discussion each week, encourage those in your group (and yourself) to share any WINS from last week on how they applied the passages to their life and any changes they experienced. Specifically, ask how they're doing with the spiritual disciplines discussed in previous weeks.

How to use this guide

Start with the key questions, include any optional scriptures and questions as needed, and conclude by determining your next steps. Be careful not to add too many passages, as it can create confusion. Make it a habit to continually direct the group back to the scripture you are studying.

Use this section (Main Idea) to set up the discussion. Remind everyone of the overall themes of the passage(s). Introduce this week's discussion using content from the "main idea" section below.

Main Idea, THE GENESIS WAY: (Genesis 2:1-3)

Week 6: Genesis Deadlines – Finishing What God Has Entrusted to You

This final week brings *The Genesis Way* to its necessary conclusion. Over the past five weeks, we've gained perspective, confronted clutter, shaped our lives, established rhythm, and intentionally filled our time. Now comes the step many people avoid—finishing. Scripture consistently shows that faithfulness is not measured by strong starts, but by faithful completion. Today is not about pressure or panic; it's about clarity. Deadlines don't steal peace—they focus it. This is about running with purpose until the work God assigned is complete.

Every meaningful thing in life has an endpoint. Seasons close. Races finish. Assignments conclude. Genesis reminds us that God created time with boundaries—and He finished His work before He rested. From creation to Christ to the letters of Paul, Scripture honors those who finish well. Living with urgency does not mean living anxiously. It means recognizing that time is a gift with limits and choosing to steward it intentionally.

Today is about urgency shaped by eternity. As I like to say: In view of eternity, today will be easy. You don't need more time...you need clarity about what must be finished. Deadlines turn intention into action and calling into completion. Genesis shows us the pattern: God dumped it, shaped it, filled it, and finished it, then God rested. You may not control how much time you have, but you do control how intentionally you live it. Don't drift. Don't delay. Don't seek perfection. Sometimes, we need to allow for things to be GETMO (Good enough to move on). Run in such a way as to win.

When conducting a group discussion, it's important to give everyone a chance to respond to each question. Start by asking specific individuals "WHAT" and "WHY"

questions, then move on to general questions for the entire group. Be sure to acknowledge and thank those who participate and include your own input to further the discussion. It's perfectly acceptable to have moments of silence to collect thoughts. By following these steps, you can maintain a focused and productive discussion.

Questions

Weekly check-in question: Use this question to start a conversation and help everyone feel at ease. Be sure to listen and acknowledge each person's response. There are no right or wrong answers.

Check-in Question: WHAT'S SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW THAT YOU KNOW NEEDS TO BE FINISHED, NOT JUST MAINTAINED OR DELAYED?

This question encourages participants to reflect on moments when they felt a deep sense of guidance or protection, similar to how Jesus portrays Himself as the Good Shepherd in the passage we will be studying. By sharing personal experiences of feeling guided, we can connect with the themes of John 10 and explore the significance of trusting in God's care and guidance in our lives. It also sets a tone of openness and vulnerability, creating an atmosphere where participants feel comfortable sharing their stories and insights.

Have everyone open their Bible and move right into the scriptures after covering the Main Idea above. Encourage everyone to bring their Bible and to read along. Suggestion: depending on the amount to read, you might want to break it down into sections and have more than one person read. Either ask for volunteers or choose those who feel comfortable reading in front of others. Remember these two techniques: Don't give the participants the answers. Leave them time to discover.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION: THE GENESIS WAY (Genesis2:1-3)

Opening Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:1-3

1. READ Genesis 2:1-3
2. Fat rabbit statement: MOST PEOPLE DON'T FAIL BECAUSE THEY CAN'T START—THEY FAIL BECAUSE THEY NEVER DECIDE TO FINISH. Agree or disagree?
3. WHY DO DEADLINES OFTEN FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE—EVEN WHEN THEY BRING CLARITY AND FREEDOM?
4. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PLAYING "NOT TO LOSE" AND RUNNING "TO WIN" IN EVERYDAY LIFE? (See 1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
5. WHICH AREA OF THE WHEEL OF LIFE MOST NEEDS A CLEAR FINISH LINE RIGHT NOW—SPIRITUAL, FAMILY, CAREER, PHYSICAL, MENTAL, SOCIAL, OR FINANCIAL?
6. HOW DOES VIEWING TIME THROUGH THE LENS OF ETERNITY CHANGE HOW YOU APPROACH UNFINISHED WORK?

7. WHAT HAS GOD CLARIFIED FOR ME OVER THESE SIX WEEKS? WHAT MUST I FINISH NEXT? Consider closing in prayer, committing unfinished assignments to God with confidence rather than anxiety.
8. Anchor to the discussion. How does this fit into my toolbox? Consider setting one meaningful deadline in three areas of life: One spiritual deadline, one relational deadline, and one work or calling deadline. Each deadline should be written down, dated, achievable, and finished...not ongoing...because finishing creates momentum. Momentum fuels faithfulness. DEADLINES DON'T LIMIT OBEDIENCE—THEY ACTIVATE IT.

“Check-out” question: Discuss some examples and ways you can apply this week's message and scripture to your life and name some definite next steps you can take in your mission. We'll provide some examples each week on your copy as listed below. The challenge applies to the scripture reading and prayer time mentioned below.

Next Steps/Challenge:

DEADLINES DON'T LIMIT OBEDIENCE—THEY ACTIVATE IT.

These scriptures should be read throughout the week. They can easily complement any other reading that each group member may be doing. There will only be a few scriptures assigned for each day. Each passage will relate to the Main Idea and will assist everyone in taking the next steps discussed or identified in your group. Instruct your group to meditate on these verses (not just read them) and to pray before, during, and after reading for the Holy Spirit to guide, encourage, and help each person apply them to their life.

Daily Bible Readings and Prayer Time

Read the following scriptures this week:

Day 1 – Psalm 90:12, Numbering our days

Day 2 – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Seasons and endings

Day 3 – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Running to win

Day 4 – John 17:4, Jesus finishes His work

Day 5 – 2 Timothy 4:6-8, Finishing the race

Day 6 – Hebrews 12:1-3, Endurance with focus

Day 7 – Colossians 4:17 and Philippians 1:6, Completing the ministry