

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 1:11-31)

This week marks a critical transition in *The Genesis Way*. Up to this point, you've confronted clutter, given your life shape, and established rhythm and boundaries. Now comes the moment many people avoid...intentional action. Genesis shows us that God never forms space without intending to fill it. After separating and gathering, God moved decisively to populate creation with life, beauty, and purpose.

The goal of this discussion is to help you move from capacity to deployment. I can't overemphasize the fact that filling is not about doing everything at once or even doing everything, that is, increasing busyness. It's about placing the right actions into the space you've already prepared. You're encouraged to focus on obedience over outcomes, progress over perfection, and faithfulness over volume. Remember that filling follows shape and rhythm; resist the urge to rush or overload. Celebrate movement, not mastery.

Leader Reminder

- Filling follows shape and rhythm—don't rush this
- Avoid "everything at once" thinking
- Emphasize action over intention
- Celebrate obedience, not output

Preview for Next Week: Next week brings the final movement of The Genesis Way: Genesis Deadlines. We'll confront urgency, finishing well, and the call to run with purpose until the end. Filling without urgency fades. Deadlines turn calling into completion.

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: SINCE ESTABLISHING RHYTHM AND BOUNDARIES, WHERE HAVE YOU NOTICED NEW SPACE OPENING UP IN YOUR LIFE?

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 (Genesis 1:11-31)

Opening Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:11-31

1. READ GENESIS 1:11–31 (Invite the group to listen specifically for *order, blessing, and purpose* as God fills what He has already formed.)
2. Fat Rabbit Statement: BUSYNESS IS EASY. FRUITFULNESS IS INTENTIONAL. Agree or disagree? Why do you think this statement creates tension for so many people?
3. WHY DO YOU THINK GOD CHOSE TO FILL CREATION ONLY AFTER SHAPING IT FIRST? WHAT DOES THAT ORDER TEACH US ABOUT HOW GOD INTENDS OUR LIVES TO WORK? (If helpful, point out that God didn't bless chaos—He blessed what was ordered.)
4. WHERE ARE YOU MOST TEMPTED TO CONFUSE BEING BUSY WITH BEING FRUITFUL? WHAT ACTIVITIES FEEL PRODUCTIVE BUT MAY NOT ACTUALLY BE PRODUCING THE FRUIT GOD INTENDS?

5. LOOKING AT THE ZIGLAR WHEEL OF LIFE, WHICH SPOKE MOST CLEARLY NEEDS INTENTIONAL FILLING RIGHT NOW—SPIRITUAL, FAMILY, CAREER, PHYSICAL, MENTAL, SOCIAL, OR FINANCIAL? WHAT IS ONE SIMPLE, CONCRETE ACTION YOU COULD TAKE *THIS WEEK* TO BEGIN FILLING THAT SPACE? (Emphasize: one action, not a life overhaul.)
6. WHAT CHANGES WHEN YOU SEE FILLING YOUR TIME AS OBEDIENCE RATHER THAN OBLIGATION? HOW DOES THAT SHIFT YOUR MOTIVATION, PRESSURE LEVEL, OR SENSE OF PURPOSE?
7. AS YOU LOOK BACK OVER DUMP IT → SHAPE IT → FILL IT, WHAT HAS GOD BEEN REVEALING TO YOU ABOUT HOW YOU'VE BEEN USING YOUR TIME?
8. Anchor to the discussion. How does this fit into my toolbox? DON'T FILL CHAOS. FILL WHAT YOU HAVE SHAPED. Fruitfulness flows from obedience to God's design, not from activity.

“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:

DON'T FILL CHAOS. FILL WHAT YOU HAVE SHAPED.

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 – Genesis 1:20–28 – God fills what He formed
- Day 2 – Ephesians 2:10 – Prepared works
- Day 3 – John 15:1–8 – Bearing fruit
- Day 4 – Colossians 1:9–10 – Living a fruitful life
- Day 5 – Psalm 1:1–3 – Planted for growth
- Day 6 – Luke 10:38–42 – Choosing what
- Day 7 – Galatians 5:22–23 – Fruit of the Spirit

Something to consider: Ask participants to choose one specific, measurable action for three spokes of the Wheel of Life:

- One spiritual action

- One relational action
- One work or growth action

Each action should:

- Be scheduled
- Be realistic
- Be finishable within the week

Filling is not about doing more...it's about doing what belongs.