

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 1:1-3)

This week begins *The Genesis Way*, a six-week journey that invites us to rethink how we view time. God has entrusted you with time. What you do with it is not neutral. This week isn't about fixing everything...it's about waking up.

We often talk about being busy, overwhelmed, or stretched thin...but rarely do we stop to ask why. This week opens *The Genesis Way* by reminding us of a sobering but freeing truth: our time is limited, intentional, and given by God. Scripture tells us that wisdom begins when we number our days...not to create fear, but to bring clarity.

Today's conversation isn't about doing more or fixing everything at once. It's about seeing our lives clearly and honestly in light of eternity. I remember a moment when I was frustrated and overwhelmed, and I said to my wife, "In view of eternity, today will be easy." It wasn't polished—it was honest. But it captured something true: our lives are not random. We live in a much larger story. That sentence mattered enough to Beth that she wrote it down and turned it into a plaque. When we recognize that our days are numbered, we're invited to stop drifting and start stewarding. To start living with purpose instead of pressure.

As you engage in this conversation, resist the urge to jump ahead to solutions. This week is about perspective before planning, awareness before action. God doesn't begin with speed and getting things done...He begins by creating. And creating is usually messy and chaotic at first. First, God dumped everything out. And it was messy and chaotic. Let's begin there together.

The goal of today's discussion is not to create guilt or pressure, but to awaken perspective. God created time with intention, and Scripture teaches that wisdom begins when we number our days and steward them well. We want to have an honest conversation, not quick fixes. Again, today is about awareness before action.

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 IS ONE WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES HOW YOUR LIFE FEELS RIGHT NOW—BUSY, FOCUSED, SCATTERED, PEACEFUL, PRESSURED, OR HOPEFUL? Why that word?

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 1:1-5)

Opening Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

1. Check-in Question: WHAT IS ONE WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES HOW YOUR LIFE FEELS RIGHT NOW—BUSY, FOCUSED, SCATTERED, PEACEFUL, PRESSURED, OR HOPEFUL? Why that word?
2. READ Genesis 1:1-5
3. Fat Rabbit statement: IF GOD HAS ALREADY NUMBERED OUR DAYS, THEN WASTING TIME IS NOT A SCHEDULING ISSUE—IT'S A SPIRITUAL ONE. Do you agree or disagree? Where does that statement feel true—or too strong?
4. WHAT STOOD OUT TO YOU MOST FROM THE TEACHING ABOUT TIME BEING CREATED BY GOD, NOT OWNED BY US?

5. WHERE DO YOU FEEL THE MOST TENSION IN YOUR USE OF TIME RIGHT NOW? Work, family, rest, spiritual life, or expectations from others?
6. The lesson said, "Anything uncounted becomes unvalued." WHAT PART OF YOUR LIFE MIGHT YOU BE UNDERVALUING SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER STOPPED TO COUNT IT?
7. IF YOUR LIFE WERE ONE 24-HOUR DAY, WHAT "TIME OF DAY" DOES IT FEEL LIKE FOR YOU RIGHT NOW? HOW DOES THAT AWARENESS CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT TODAY
8. Anchor to the discussion. How does this fit into my toolbox? God created time with intention and order. Our lives are not random or unlimited...they are entrusted. Wisdom begins when we stop drifting and start stewarding our days on purpose. As an anchor to our discussion, I'd like everybody to do this before the next gathering: DECIDE WHAT TIME OF DAY YOUR LIFE IS IN. Are you in the Morning (formation), Midday (building and responsibility), or Evening (legacy and influence)? Write one sentence answering this question: "Because this is the season I'm in, God may be inviting me to focus more intentionally on _____. " Share it with the group next time. (Invite participants to request the "My Life in 24 Hours" PDF from Dan if they want to go deeper this week.)

"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:

DECIDE WHAT TIME OF DAY YOUR LIFE IS IN.

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

Day 2 – Genesis 1:1-5

Day 3 – James 4:13-15

Day 4 – Ephesians 5:15-16

Day 5 – Colossians 3:17, 23-24

Day 6 – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Day 7 – Review: What did I learn about how I'm using my time?