



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Overview

Today's message is about Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will learn the significance of hands, especially the hand of the Lord. We will see how God guides us as we read through the Easter story.

### Discussion Questions

Our hands are very important and serve many purposes. We use our hands to pick up, hug, touch, celebrate, and other activities. As versatile and special our human hands are, the hand of the Lord is even more powerful and beneficial.

God guides us with His hand daily in our Christian walk. **Acts 11:21** says, **"And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord."** The hand of God is Him nudging us, directing us, and leading us.

God's hand created the world and us. **Psalms 19:1** says, **"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."** The hand of God is seen in His creation—people and everything around us!

#### 1. Why did He create us by His hand?

God created us because He loves us. There is nothing we have done or can do to earn His love. **Romans 8:38-39** says, **"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."** He loves us unconditionally based on His character.

- Share about a time when you made something with your hands.
- How does it make you feel to know that you were created by the hand of God?

## 2. Why did Jesus have to die?

Jesus, an innocent being (fully God yet fully man), died for us. Our private sin was paid for publicly in the death of Christ. Jesus' blood is the covering for all our sin. **2 Corinthians 5:21** says, **"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."** Because we all are familiar with pain, God used this to show us His infinite love through Christ's suffering on the cross.

- What does the cross teach us?
- How does it make you feel to know that you are unconditionally loved?

## 3. Why the empty tomb?

If Jesus had only died for our sins, the Easter story might not be so powerful. However, we have a Savior who conquered and defeated death! The empty tomb shows us that the hand of God reached down and raised Jesus from the dead.

**Romans 6:9** says, **"knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him."** Now we can experience abundant and eternal life. We can live a resurrection life.

- How does Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection give us power?
- What are some ways you have seen the hand of God at work in your life?

## Life Challenge

Trace your hand on a sheet of paper. In the palm area, write your name. This will serve as a reminder that you can experience the hand of God in your life and that He created you with His hands. For each finger, write an area of your life where you would like to more vividly experience the hand of God. Put your paper somewhere that you will see it daily, and pray over these areas.

## Prayer

*Lord, we thank You for all that You have done for us. Thank You for Your sacrifice on the cross. Thank You for creating us. Thank You for paying the ultimate price so that we can experience an abundant life. Help us to never forget what we mean to You. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.*