

Small Group Discussion Guide

Jew, Jewish & Judaism

October 4, 2026

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I. Words Matter

Words matter, especially when we are talking about people, faith, and history. In a time when hostility toward Jewish people can be seen and heard in many places, it is important for Christians to understand what these terms mean and to know how to respond with truth, grace, and love.

A. Jew (Judah)

The word **Jew** comes from Judah and refers to a person of Jewish birth or heritage, while **Judaism** is the Jewish faith and religious tradition. **Israelite** refers to the people of biblical Israel, while **Israeli** refers to a citizen of the modern nation of Israel. Understanding these distinctions helps us speak accurately and respectfully about a people whose history is deeply connected to our Christian faith.

B. Arab

The word **Arab** describes an ethno-linguistic people group, not a nation or race, and primarily refers to Arabic-speaking peoples from the Middle East and North Africa. Arabs are not all the same in religion or nationality. There are **Muslim Arabs** and **Christian Arabs**, as well as Arabs with other religious backgrounds.

- **Why do you think it is important for Christians to understand the difference between terms such as Jew, Jewish, Judaism, Israelite, Israeli, and Arab?**

II. Why do the Jewish people matter to God? GOD CHOSE THEM!

— *Read Genesis 17:3–8 and Deuteronomy 7:6 aloud.*

From the beginning, Scripture shows that God established a unique covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Whatever questions we may have about Israel, the Jewish people, or current events, we should remember that **God has a covenant history with the Jewish people, and they matter to Him.** As Christians, that should shape how we think, speak, and respond, leaving no room for hatred or prejudice but instead reflecting God's love and respect for His people.

- **What stands out to you about God's covenant with Abraham and the Jewish people in Genesis 17?**

III. Should the Jewish people matter to us? The answer is YES!

— *Read Romans 9:4–5, Romans 11:1–2, John 4:22, and Revelation 21:10–12 aloud.*

Scripture continues to speak about God's relationship with His people. Jesus Himself was Jewish, as were His disciples, the apostles, and the writers of much of the New Testament. Jesus said in John 4:22, "salvation is from the Jews." In other words, Christians have no biblical story without the Jewish people. Our faith is rooted in their history, their Scriptures, God's promises, and ultimately in Jesus, the Messiah. This doesn't mean Christians must agree with everything any individual or government does.

- **How does remembering that Jesus and the early disciples were Jewish affect the way you view the Jewish people today?**

So, what should our response be?

Use your influence to advocate for the Jewish people. Be willing to be a friend to the Jewish people. Pray for peace and wisdom. And remember that every Jewish person we encounter is someone made in the image of God and worthy of dignity, kindness, and respect.

- **What are some practical ways you can show kindness, respect, friendship, and support toward Jewish people in our community?**

IV. Is the nation of Israel biblically significant today? The answer is YES!

— *Read 2 Chronicles 6:6, Joel 3:1–3, and Luke 21:24 aloud.*

Throughout Scripture, Jerusalem and the land of Israel have an important place in God's story and His future purposes. We may not understand every detail of God's prophetic timetable, but we should not ignore what Scripture says about Israel and Jerusalem. Ultimately, history is moving according to God's plan, and we can trust Him even when we do not understand all that He is doing.

- **What does Scripture teach us about the significance of Israel and Jerusalem, and how can we hold onto those truths while recognizing that we may not understand every detail of God's plan?**

Prayer

Father, thank You for reminding us that You love people from every nation and every tribe. Be with our nation and awaken our hearts to You. Give us courage to speak up when we see evil and wisdom to know how to respond with grace and truth. May Your mercy and peace guide us, and help us reflect Your love to those around us. In Jesus' name, amen.