**Cell Group Bible Study**

**Encountering Jesus in the Old Testament**

**Introduction**

Welcome to the start of our church’s sermon series and cell group bible study on Encountering Jesus in the Old Testament! We will be embarking on this journey for next seven weeks from 8 January till 19 February.

*Why look for Jesus in the Old Testament?*

1. It **deepens our appreciation and love** for Holy Scripture. Reading the bible is no longer one-dimensional but becomes relevant, applicable and most of all, relational. Within the text of the bible we can find more of Jesus revealed and this is such an exciting journey.
2. It helps us **find true life**. Jesus clearly states to all Scripture speaks about him and points to himself (John 5:39-40). And as he alone is the source of life, we find life when we come to him through the Scriptures revealed.

*What is a suggested cell group and bible study format?*

1. You can incorporate the elements of the **4 W’s** for your cell meeting: **Welcome** (personal thanksgiving), **Worship** (songs), **Word** (bible study) and **Works** (prayer for each other and upcoming events of the church).
2. Each of the bible study will consist of three elements:
   1. **Introductory question** for discussion (related to the focus of the bible study)
   2. **Discussion question(s)** based on the passage
   3. **Possible application(s)** in daily life
3. You may not include all of the elements in a single cell group session but please don’t ignore any of these elements over the longer term.

*What can be helpful for cell members to be more involved?*

1. Everyone should try to read the bible passage beforehand or during the meeting.
2. Cell members can be rostered to lead in the various elements within the cell meeting: welcome, worship, bible study or prayer
3. In smaller groups, cell members can keep in touch with one another about how they have been applying the lessons learnt in the sermon/bible study throughout the week. You can also ask cell members to share and update about their previous week’s resolution that they have set for themselves.

*What is helpful for you as a cell leader to have a fruitful meeting?*

1. Keep your cell group meeting and your members in prayer throughout the week.
2. Encourage everyone to share and thank them for sharing – there are no wrong answers (unless it contradicts what God says!) and each opinion should be valued.
3. Look to affirm what your members are sharing – especially about how God may be speaking or leading them in their lives.
4. Feel free to stop at any point to elaborate if the Spirit is leading you to – **you don’t have to complete all of the discussion questions.**
5. Look to end every meeting in prayer committing everyone and the week ahead to God’s blessing and keeping.

**Encountering Jesus Bible Study (8 Jan)**

**Jesus in Creation**

**Theme – The Light of Christ is Life**

Key Verse: *““In him was life, and the life was the light of men.”* John 1:4

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Share about how the life or example of someone has impacted you greatly in the past week or in your life. What was it about his or her life that impacted you?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read John 1:1-13]**

“*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”* John 1:1-3

1. How does knowing Jesus as God and Creator of the world impact your life?

*“In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”* John 1:4-5

1. What is this life that Jesus is referring to? How does the reference of light explain the characteristics of this life?

*“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”* John 1:12-13

1. What is the response that Jesus calls from those who have seen his light? What is the result of such a response?

***C. Application***

“*He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him*.” John 1:10-12

The sad truth is that there are many who, despite hearing and knowing about what Christ has done, choose to reject Christ for themselves.

1. Are there such people in your contact and sphere of influence? With them (or others) in mind, how can you shine the light of Christ more effectively to them for 2023?

End with prayer that the Lord will use you both individually and as a cell to reach out to your friends and loved ones this year.

*“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*   
Isaiah 60:1-3