**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 (22 Jan)**

**Jesus in Moses and the Law**

**Theme – Righteousness Through Faith Alone**

Key Verse: *“I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.”* Galatians 2:21

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Have you ever had to do what you felt was an impossible task? What was it and what was your experience of attempting it like?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read Galatians 3:1-14 – Righteousness by Faith]**

1. Why is it so important for a believer to continue trusting in Christ for righteousness instead of trying to fulfil the Law (the Law given through Moses)?

**[Read Galatians 3:15-26 – The Purpose of the Law]**

1. According to Apostle Paul, is the Law inherently good or bad?
2. What are at least two purposes of the Law as listed out by Paul?

***C. Application***

*“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.”* Galatians 2:20-21

Christ does not intend for us to gain our right standing with God by striving to fulfil the law. This is because not only is such an attempt impossible and will end in frustration, it takes away the blessing of us trusting wholly in Christ all throughout our lives.

Yet it does not also mean that we sit back, do nothing and continue in our sinful lifestyles. God calls us to bear the fruit of righteousness in our actions and lifestyle through our trust in Christ.

1. How should we work out our salvation not through human efforts but through faith in Christ? How does that work out in our daily lives?

End with prayer for one another for the Lord’s grace in our lives to live a life of faith.

*“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