**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 (15 Jan)**

**Jesus in the Patriarchs**

**Theme – Following the Example of the Faith of Christ**

Key Verse: *“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 2:5

***A. Introductory Question***

1. What was the one most adventurous thing you have done in your life?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read Genesis 12:1-5 – The Example Of Abraham]**

1. What was God’s intention for telling Abraham to do as he did? (v2-3)
2. How easy or difficult was it for Abraham to do as he was instructed by God to do? (Refer to Hebrews 11:8-10)

**[Read Philippians 2:5-11 – The Example of Jesus]**

1. What was the journey that Jesus undertook in response to the Father’s will?
2. What are the similarities and differences between Jesus’ journey and Abraham’s journey?

***C. Application***

Now the Lord said to Abram, “*Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you*.” Genesis 12:1

Stepping out of our comfort zones to obey the call of God for our lives is never an easy thing. Yet we can be assured that God’s will for our lives is always good and for our greatest blessing as well as for the blessing of others through us.

1. What is one thing that the Lord is challenging you in your life to step out of your comfort zone to serve his purpose this season?

End with prayer for one another that the Lord will strengthen you for the task ahead and open the door for greater blessings and a greater year of growth in your lives!

*“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