**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**

**Jesus in the Prophets (19 Feb)**

**Big Idea – God’s word both reveals to us the future as well as the state of our hearts**

Key Verse: *“I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.”* Psalm 119:99

***A. Introductory Question***

1. What is one advice by a loved one, trusted teacher or friend that has helped you greatly?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read Isaiah 53:1-12]**

Isaiah 53 is a particularly powerful prophetic message about a suffering servant who would be sent by God to bear the sins of the people and bring them redemption. For believers, we see this chapter as a direct prophecy of the coming of Jesus Christ, who fulfils both the roles of a suffering servant and a saviour. The number of prophecies in this chapter that Jesus fulfils is astounding.

1. Let’s embark on a study of this chapter. Which parts of Isaiah’s prophecy about the coming Messiah does Jesus fulfil? Feel free to list out the verses and statements.

Isaiah 53 focuses on some specific themes in the life of the Messiah. This can be seen through the repetition of the prophet on them throughout this chapter.

1. What do you think is the main / dominant theme of the coming Messiah’s life and ministry in this chapter? What does that tell you about God’s purposes through that?

***C. Application***

For this week’s topic, we learn that biblical prophecies both **foretells** as well as **forthtells**. **Foretelling** is predicting what will happen in the future, such as Isaiah’s prediction of the life of the coming Messiah. **Forthtelling** is speaking truth to bear in our current situation, such as calling people to repentance from idolatry or injustice based on God’s word. Both are equally important aspects of God’s communication to us.

1. What is one way that you would adopt to focus on reading and meditating on the Scriptures more regularly in this season of Lent?

Share with one another some practical ways you can put these responses into practice. Spend some time too to pray for each other.

*“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.* Isaiah 60:1