**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 (5 Feb)**

**Jesus in the Sacrifices**

**Big Idea – Jesus’ Sacrifice is superior to the Old Testament sacrifices**

Key Verse: *“For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”* Hebrews 10:14

***A. Introductory Question***

1. What is one family ritual that you observe regularly in your family? How did it begin and what is its significance?

***B. Discussion Questions***

The Old Testament idea of sacrifice concerns approaching God in an acceptable manner through the offering of a suitable substitute. The burden and consequences of sin is then transferred from the offender to the sacrificial substitute. Moses details the fitting sacrificial system for sin in the form of five offerings: burnt, grain, fellowship, sin and guilt offerings (Leviticus 1-7). The Israelites had to offer these sacrifices regularly. The reason for such an elaborate system is to illustrate the severity of sin: *without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins* (Hebrew 9:22).

**[Read Hebrews 10:1-14]**

1. According to the author of Hebrews, what was deficient about the Old Testament sacrifices to deal with sin? What then was the purpose of such sacrifices? (see v1-4)
2. How is Christ’s sacrifice of himself superior to that of the daily sacrifices of bulls and goats in the Old Testament?

***C. Application***

**[Read Hebrews 10:19-25]**

There are many suitable responses required from us from knowing that in Christ’s sacrifice, we now have full access to the forgiveness of our sins and restoration of our relationship with the Father. Revd Soon shared that one suitable response is to come to the Lord’s Table each week (or alternate week) with much reverence, gratefulness and thanksgiving and not treat it like a meaningless ritual.

1. What are two responses we are urged to adopt in this passage now that we have received the blessings of Jesus’ sacrifice?

Pray for one another and for the entire cell group to persevere in these responses and to regularly observe the NT “ritual” of gathering together for cell group meetings and weekly services.

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