

How Not To Read The Bible

DISCUSSION GUIDE | April 26, 2026

BIG IDEA

The Old Testament is the story of how God prepared the world for Jesus.

Message title: *Why Read the Old Testament?*

Scripture reading: Isaiah 53:3-11, Luke 24:27 NIV

The Old Testament wasn't written to followers of Jesus as their rulebook, but it was written for them as the backstory of God's redemption. It shows how God prepared the world for the Messiah. Read through the lens of Jesus, it points clearly to the cross.

- 1. Why do you think the earliest Gentile Christians valued the Hebrew Scriptures even though they did not follow the Old Covenant law?*
- 2. What are some examples you've seen where the Old Testament clearly points forward to Jesus?*
- 3. How does the idea of "progressive movement" (God moving people forward step by step) help make sense of troubling passages?*
- 4. In what ways does the Old Testament deepen your appreciation for the cross and the New Covenant?*
- 5. How might your personal Bible-reading habits change if you consistently approached the Old Testament as "the backstory of Jesus"?*

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Read one Old Testament passage each day this week and ask a single question as you read: "How does this help me better understand who Jesus is or what He came to do?" Write down one insight each day and bring it back to discuss with someone.