

## **Discussion Guide – The Backstory of Jesus in the Old Testament**

### **Lesson Summary**

This lesson explores how the tabernacle, sacrifices, and festivals in the Old Testament form the foundation for understanding Jesus and the rest of the Bible.

Beginning with the Road to Emmaus, we are reminded that Jesus Himself explained how Moses and the Prophets pointed to Him. The New Testament repeatedly shows that what happened in the life of Jesus was the fulfillment of promises, pictures, and patterns given centuries earlier.

The lesson emphasizes that the Bible is one unified story with one ultimate Author. When read in fragments, its unity can be missed. But when viewed as a whole, the tabernacle, sacrificial system, priesthood, and festivals reveal a coherent plan of redemption pointing forward to Christ.

Each element of Israel's worship—the altar, laver, lampstand, showbread, veil, ark, and annual feasts—served as a picture of what Jesus would ultimately fulfill. These were not random rituals, but carefully designed illustrations of cleansing, sacrifice, fellowship, intercession, rest, and final redemption. Together they form the backstory of Jesus and deepen our understanding of His life, death, resurrection, and promised return.

### **Ice-breaker Question**

Have you ever watched a movie or read a novel where the ending made earlier details suddenly make sense? What was that experience like?

### **Discussion Questions for a Group; Journal Questions for Individual Study**

1. Why is the story of the Road to Emmaus so important for understanding the relationship between the Old Testament and Jesus?
2. How does reading the Bible as one unified story strengthen confidence in its authority and message?
3. What does the design and structure of the tabernacle teach us about God's holiness and the seriousness of sin?

4. In what ways do the sacrifices help us understand more fully the meaning of Jesus' death?

5. How do the festivals of Israel illustrate the broader timeline of salvation history, including Christ's first coming and future return?

6. What dangers arise when worship becomes centered on fear or self-indulgence rather than obedience to God's revealed will?

### **Life Application Suggestions, consider and respond**

1. Develop the habit of asking, when reading the Old Testament, how a passage may point forward to Christ.

2. Reflect on whether your understanding of Jesus' sacrifice has grown deeper through seeing its Old Testament foundations.

3. Evaluate your approach to worship. Consider whether it is shaped more by personal preference or by what the Bible reveals about God's character.

4. Practice resting in Christ's completed work this week, remembering that He fulfilled what the Law and sacrifices only pictured.

### **Prayer Focus**

Thank God for the unity of the Bible and for the fulfillment of His promises in Jesus. Pray for deeper understanding as you read the Old Testament, and for a heart that trusts fully in Christ's completed work of redemption.