

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“It’s all about Jesus” (pt. 1) – 7/6/2014

**Scripture:** John 5:30-47

**Bottom Line:** The entire Bible is about Jesus.

**INTRODUCTION:** Describe the Bible in one sentence? Common answers would be “God’s Word” or “Our guide for life”. Have you ever considered the Bible to be one large story? The Bible covers so much, it can be hard to view it this way but it is true. The Bible is God’s story of God creating everything and then redeeming it when humanity rebelled. At the center of this story stands Jesus, our great redeemer.

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

**Read John 5:39-40**

Knowledge isn’t everything. The religious leaders in Jesus’ day studied the Scriptures (Old Testament) so much that many of them had it completely memorized. It is possible to know the Bible really well and not know the person that the Bible speaks about. This was true in Jesus’ day and it is true in ours as well. Many in our culture know plenty about the Bible but they do not know God. Having a good knowledge of the Bible is very important and we should strive to know it well, but we should never forget that it is Jesus that saves us, not the Bible. The Bible is merely the means by which we come to know God.

**Read John 5:45-47**

Think of the year 3314. That would be 1300 years in the future. How accurate could anyone write about a man 1300 years in the future? Well, according to Jesus, Moses apparently did.

Is that hard for you to believe? Why? Does it seem unrealistic?

Here are some of the different ways that Jesus is spoken of in the OT:

- Gen 3:15 – God promises that Eve's descendant will crush Satan. The rest of the Bible traces her offspring (Luke 3:23-38) until it stops at Jesus, who defeats Satan on the cross.
- Gen 22:1-15 – God tells Abraham to sacrifice his only son, which would have ended his line and killed Israel as a people. Before Abraham does it, God provides a lamb as a sacrifice. Jesus is known as the Lamb of God. (John 1:29)
- Exodus 12:1-13 – God plans to bring judgment on the Egyptians but tells the Israelites to place lamb's blood on their door to be spared. They were literally saved by the blood of the Lamb. Why else would God do something this weird but to prepare people for Jesus' future coming?
- Exodus 16 – God provides bread from heaven for the people to survive in the wilderness. 1300 years later, Jesus stands before 5,000 men in the wilderness, whom he had just fed with a few loaves of bread, and says he was the true bread that came down from heaven (John 6:32-35).
- Numbers 21 – The people complain to Moses in the wilderness and God sends fiery serpents to judge the people. Then God tells Moses to make a bronze serpent and lift it up for the people to see. All who look to the serpent will live, even if they were bitten. In John 3:14-15, Jesus says that just as the people looked at the serpent and lived, if people would look to the Son once he is lifted up then they would live eternally.

### UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

Why is it important to know that Jesus is the main subject of the Bible?

- The Bible was not written for our information. It was written for our transformation. We have all sinned and fallen away from God. God is completely just to send all of us to Hell, yet he chooses to have mercy. His mercy comes through the sending of Jesus to pay the penalty for our rebellion. The Bible is the story of how God literally shaped history so that at the perfect time, his Son would come and begin to redeem the world.
- Knowing the Bible is not what saves you, but it is the means by which you come to know the truth about God. It is primarily how God speaks to you.

### LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

If the Bible is primarily how God speaks to you, then why would it not be authoritative? How could you be more open to the Bible's authority?