

The Good,
THE BAD,
AND
THE UGLY



THE WELL
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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ABOUT THIS STUDY

The Old Testament is full of some good, bad, and ugly folks.

Some show us sins of which we also need to repent, while others exemplify lifestyles to emulate.

Sometimes, like in us all, we'll see a bit of both.

In their *sin and shortcoming*, they point us to a Savior who forgives us of our mess.

In their *awesomeness and faith*, they point us to a Savior who is even greater than they are.

The good, the bad, and the ugly all shine a brilliant spotlight on the Savior to come.

This series will highlight Old Testament heroes and zeros, telling the stories of different people both well known and unknown, in order to familiarize us with the whole redemptive story and point us to Christ. We each have sin to turn from; we will see it in these folks.

We also have a mighty Savior who transforms us by grace; **we will see *Him* through these folks.**

Follow the below schedule to study the passages on your own, and discuss what God is showing you together with your group. More Bible study resources can be found at thewellsilverspring.org/resources.

PERSONAL DAILY STUDY

Following the below process, prayerfully read the scheduled passage of scripture. Spend the entire week on the given section, slowly reading and rereading it in order to deeply, and accurately, interact with God. Also consider the below supplemental questions per each given week. You can also check out our other simple guides online for additional Bible study resources at thewellsilverspring.org/resources.

What Does It Say?

First, we ask: *“What does this say?”*

Read the passage a few times and carefully observe the words; give full attention to what it says. The purpose is to saturate in the content of the passage.

Look for things such as: important words (what’s being talked about), conjunctions (how is one idea connected to another), admonitions (something being commanded), contrasts, comparisons, illustrations, repeated phrases/ words, mood, and grammatical construction (verb tenses, prepositional phrases, etc.).

Linger here, listening to what God is saying in the detail of His words. Write down questions that the passage raises for you, things you don’t understand, ideas you’d like to pursue further.

What Does It Mean?

We now ask ourselves: *“What does it mean?”*

Use the observations you just gathered, the context of the section, and other passages of scripture to get at the meaning of what you have read.

Consider using [a commentary](#), the [GROW](#) or [SOAP](#) Bible study tools, the [ESV Study Bible](#) notes, or other resources to help.

Next, summarize the main truth you heard from God in His word.

Consider writing out the synthesized truth in your own words. Outline, diagram, draw, or flowchart the line of thought or main idea of the passage. What jumped out

So What?

Now we must ask: *“So what?”*

After meeting God in His word, we cannot ignore, or walk away unchanged. Why does the truth you heard matter to you today?

Is there something new to believe, cling to, or a sin to confess?

Is there something for you to do (or not do) in response to what you have read?

Is there someone with whom to share this truth (believer or nonbeliever)?

Do not forget to apply the gospel for your forgiveness, and as the reason compelling your obedience:

Christ is enough!

He has forgiven you for _____
and He is the reason why we _____.

STUDY THEMES

First, it's helpful to understand a few ways in which Jesus' Bible study method can be applied to the Old Testament.

In Luke 24 (*verses 25-25 and 44-49*) the resurrected Jesus teaches His disciples his Bible study method - how to read the Old Testament in order to see Him. Every bit of the Old Testament points to Him! Unfortunately we aren't privy to the details of the conversation, but one thing we know: all of the scriptures bear witness to Christ and we find life when we are led by His scriptures to Him (*John 5:37-40*).

Here are a few themes to look out for as you read.

Redemptive Story

Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration.

God created the world. All things are broken in humanity's sin, handed down to us sinful, rebellious people, living in a broken world and longing for God's salvation and restoration.

God establishes His people in Israel to bring His promises and good news to all peoples, through a coming Savior: the Christ (*'anointed one'*).

Jesus comes, lives, dies, and raises to life. He pays for our sin and gives us His righteousness by faith. He brings His kingdom, and establishes the church who carries on His works by the Spirit's power and presence until Christ's return. On that day, He will restore all things under Himself.

The Bible tells one story, so each historic event, and person **before** Jesus moves the story forward towards Christ, and each one **after** Christ looks forward to His coming and His return.

Question to ask: How does this event / person / etc. move the story forward and point to Christ as it does so?

Fulfilled in Christ

The Old Testament is full of practices, images, and people that are shadows of the Savior to come.

The sacrifices at the temple point to our ultimate Sacrifice.

The exodus from slavery points to the One who would free us from slavery to sin and death and set us free as we bring justice in His kingdom to come.

The preceding event is the **type**, which is fulfilled in a greater and more direct way in the **anti-type**, which is Jesus.

Sometimes the New Testament explicitly draws the connection for us (*ex: Passover lamb; bronze serpent lifted by Moses*).

Other times we see the image as a shadow in the Old Testament implicitly pointing us forward to the greater fulfillment in Christ (*ex: the exodus; Boaz as kinsman redeemer*).

Question to ask: How does this person / event / practice point towards a similar, greater, parallel work of Christ?

Positives and Negatives

The good, the bad, and the ugly all shine a brilliant spotlight on the Savior to come.

Some people in the Old Testament exhibit great faith or character. In these amazing moments we are reminded of an even greater Savior to come (*Moses leading the people out of slavery; Joshua destroying God's enemies*).

Sometimes the sins and shortcomings of God's people, or enemies, are highlighted, reminding us of our deep need for the Savior to come (*Ahaz the king; Lot's wife looking back*).

Frequently, one person captures both high and low. For example, King David's God-seeking benevolent rule is surpassed by our true King, Jesus, while David's sins are our sins, needing forgiveness in Christ.

Questions to ask: How does this person's greatness point to our greater Savior? How does this person's sin mirror my own, and remind me of my need for Christ?

Direct Prophecy

Sometimes the Old Testament simply tells us something about the Savior to come.

These prophetic promises are then fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

Sometimes the Old Testament reference is explicitly connected for us by the New Testament references, like when the Gospel of Matthew often repeats, "This was to fulfill the scriptures..." Other times the prophecy is more veiled, as in Isaiah 53 referencing a Savior who would not come in might but would come to suffer and die.

The Old Testament also gives historic details to be fulfilled by the coming Savior: on the cross his bones will not be broken, He will be in the line of David, born in Bethlehem, etc.

Question to ask: Is this detail pointing forward towards Jesus to be fulfilled in Christ, or is it mentioned as an example of Christ fulfilling Old Testament prophecy?

Here are the good, bad, and ugly men and women we will get to know this series:

Week 1

JESUS + NOAH

Luke 24 + Genesis 7

Week 2

MIRIAM

Numbers 12

Week 3

GIDEON

Judges 7

Week 4

MEPHIBOSHETH

2 Samuel 9

Week 5

ELIJAH

1 Kings 18

Week 6

JOSIAH

2 Kings 22-23

Week 7

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 1

Week 8

ESTHER

Esther 4

Week 9

DANIEL

Daniel 3

Week 10

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah 1

WEEKLY QUESTIONS

Each week, consider the following questions as we consider different people from the Old Testament. May we see how they point us to embrace and give our allegiance to our Savior.

Each week, after considering the details of the passage, use the questions below to help you consider how God desires your life to change in response to who He is and what He has done for us in Christ.

Questions

Who is this person, and how does he/she fit into the historic story of the Bible?

What major aspects of this person and this story jump out to you?

What shortcoming or sin do you see in this person?

What strength or faith is exhibited by this person?

In what other ways does this person or the surrounding story point us towards Christ?

So What?

How do you see your sin, or similar sin, in your own life? Confess it to Christ, talk to others who you have impacted by your sin, and ask for forgiveness. Ask Jesus to know the depth of His love and forgiveness, that He might transform you by grace.

How does this person and/or story point you to Christ, who is greater and more worthy of our praise? Praise Jesus for who He is and all He has done. Rejoice over God's goodness in Christ.

Is there another aspect of this scripture where you sense God calling you to obedience: something to do (or not do), something to share, a promise to cling to, or sin to confess?

TOGETHER WITH YOUR 3D GROUP

Use the following format to discuss the passage together in your 3D group. You'll find the specific supplementary questions for the scripture passages

in the above schedule. You can also find the full details for 3D discussion in our [3D Meeting Guide](#). Here is a summary:

Bible

First, discuss the Bible passage from the week:

1

What does the passage say? What jumps out to you? What key ideas, commands, promises, words, ideas, etc, struck you this week?

2

How would you summarize the main truth from the section? How might this inform your thinking and shape the way we are to live?

3

Where is the gospel connected to this truth? What does this highlight about who we are, or about who God is?

Life

Share about how this truth impacts your life today:

For you today, why does this specifically matter?

Is there something God calling you to obey in response to His word?

Is there something you need to do or not do? Something to believe, promise to cling to, or a sin to confess?

Is there someone to share this truth with?

Prayer

Pray throughout your time together.

Offer praises to God when something encouraging is shared; ask for help from God as challenges are shared.

Close in prayer.

Spend time to respond to God's truth in the scriptures and from your conversation.

Praise Him.

Confess sin to Him.

Thank Him.

Ask Him for His power and provision.