



Small Group Guide: The Forgotten Jesus

“Abolish & Fulfill”

Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: What's one thing from your childhood or past that you initially didn't understand but later came to appreciate its value?

Key Takeaways

1. The Old Testament is essential, not optional - It provides the framework for understanding Jesus and His mission.
 2. Jesus didn't make things easier; He raised the bar - True discipleship costs something and requires commitment.
 3. The posture of our heart matters - When we don't understand Scripture, we should pray "Lord, strengthen my faith" rather than dismiss what challenges us.
 4. The Law was never about earning salvation - It was always about faith, both in the Old and New Testaments.
 5. We need to do the hard work - Deep discipleship takes time, but it produces fruit that doesn't spoil.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the Text

1. Read Matthew 5:17-20 together. What stands out to you most in Jesus's statement about the Law? Why do you think He needed to clarify this so early in the Sermon on the Mount?
2. What do you think Jesus meant when He said He came to "fulfill" rather than "abolish" the Law? How does the pencil sketch/color illustration help you understand this concept?

Personal Reflection

3. How comfortable are you with the Old Testament? Do you find yourself avoiding it or struggling to see its relevance? Why or why not?

Challenging Questions

5. The podcast discussed Andy Stanley's approach of "unhitching" from the Old Testament to remove stumbling blocks for seekers. What are the dangers of making Christianity "easier" by removing difficult parts? How do we balance accessibility with truth?
6. Kandi's point: "Isn't that why it's called faith?" Discuss times when you've had to trust God's Word even when you didn't fully understand it. How did that strengthen your faith?

Application

7. Islam is growing because they "raised the bar" rather than lowering it. What does this tell us about human nature and spiritual hunger? How should the church respond?
8. Why do you think Christians sometimes trust social media voices over trained pastors and biblical scholarship? How can we be discerning consumers of spiritual content?

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for:

- Hunger to understand God's whole Word, Old and New Testaments
- Discernment in consuming spiritual content
- Courage to embrace the full cost of discipleship
- Faith to trust what we don't yet fully understand
- The Holy Spirit to illuminate Scripture as we read