**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**November 12th 2017. Testament**

**Discussion notes: Why and how to read the Old Testament. Luke 24:25-27, 44-45.**

For many people the Old Testament is literally a closed book. Yet for Jesus himself, and the early Church, it **was** their scripture. Jesus quotes the Old Testament often, as do Paul and the other New testament writers. Yet for may of us today there seems to be a disconnect between ‘the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ’ and the requirements of God as he appears in the Old Testament. How should we read this book?

1. Can you describe some of the ways you find the Old Testament difficult? Is it because it is an ancient text where you might need more study to understand it, or is it that the content seems harsh or brutal at times?
2. If the Bible was a play of several different acts, could you describe the acts or the nature of the plot in the Old Testament? How does it lead into the New Testament?
3. The Old Testament has some big themes; Creation, Covenant, Sacrifice, Sim and Redemption. How do these provide foundations for the New Testament story?
4. What has the story of Israel got to do with non-Jewish people today?
5. What do you understand by the idea of ‘developing revelation?
6. How do you see Jesus ‘in’ the Old testament?

The Old Testament is a foundation for our faith. It is a collection of books written over centuries in different genres. It is both prophetic, literary, historical and theological but not all of these things all the time. The adventure of discovering the Old Testament is worth it! Why not commit to reading with the help of a good study guide or something like HTB’s on line Bible in One year guide?