**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**December 11th 2017. True Jesus**

**Discussion notes: Jesus: True temple 1 Kings 8.**

In the Old Testament, the Temple is a place where God dwells. God established a place where he could be known, and a place where sacrifices could be made so that people could be in relationship with Him. (This is central to the O.T. understanding of what it means to be a Holy Nation). Jesus is fully the place where God could be known (John 1 Message version ‘the Word became Flesh and Blood and moved into the neighbourhood’) John 2:19-21 is his self-identification as the true temple. Jesus life is from the beginning a place for worship (Matthew 2:2) and a place of sacrifice, fulfilled in his own priestly self-offering on the cross.

1. The temple in Jerusalem is uniquely precious to the Jewish people and still today its site is deeply revered. Why is this?
2. The temple is a place where God ‘dwells’ as well as a place where he is worshipped. Is it a place of intimacy or distance?
3. Why was sacrifice important in Temple worship? How did Jesus fulfil the sacrificial system of the Old Testament?
4. How comfortable are you with the idea of worshipping Jesus as well as worshipping through Jesus? What is the difference?
5. How do we enter into what it means to be the true temple? (1 Corinthians 3)

In his famous book ‘mere christianity’ C.S. Lewis describes Jesus as the perfect priest and the perfect sacrifice. How does the Old Testament help you appreciate the freedom we now have as worshippers? Hebrews 4:14,7:11-9:28.