

## **Growing Deeper**

### ***The Good Book: Unlocking the Good News of Scripture***

#### **Week Four: *The Answer Key—Understanding Christocentric Interpretation***

##### ***Genesis 22:1-18; John 5:39***

#### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. “The Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus.” This is a tagline from The Bible Project. What is your reaction to that statement? Is this how you usually read the Bible?
2. Read John 5:39. Here the genre is narrative—a real conversation. Skim chapter 5. What is the context for this conversation? Who is Jesus talking to? What is their problem with Jesus?
3. How does Jesus’ statement in John 5:39 address their problem with him?
4. Remember when Jesus speaks of scripture, he is referring to the Old Testament (that’s all they had at that time!). What does verse 39 mean for our reading of the Old Testament?
5. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Worship Jesus as God’s Son who gives life. Ask God to open your eyes to Jesus as you study and meditate on scripture.

#### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

6. What are some of your favorite Bible stories?
7. Why are they your favorites?
8. What is revealed about Jesus in these stories? (What do they tell you about Christ? What do they say to you in light of what we know about God through Christ?)
9. Read Luke 24:13-27 and 36-47. It was not just Jesus’ enemies who needed to reorient their understanding of scripture. Who is Jesus instructing here?
10. Many of the followers of Jesus would have known the scriptures well, yet they needed help to understand them as God intended. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Thank God for pursuing us despite our ignorance and for making understanding possible through the Spirit of Jesus.

#### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three**

11. If all scripture bears witness of Jesus, does that mean all portions of the Bible make direct mention of him?
12. Having a big picture perspective of the Bible helps us understand this better. How would you briefly describe the story told by the Bible?
13. The Bible describes God's rescue plan for humanity. How does this connect to Jesus?
14. Let's use this understanding as we read Genesis 3:14-15. (If you don't know the context, read all of chapter 3.) God makes a promise to rescue humanity here. What does he say?
15. How is Jesus the fulfillment of that promise?
16. End your FIFTEEN meditating on God's promise and what it means for you personally.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four**

17. Remembering God's grace and promise from the first chapters of Genesis helps us see grace throughout scripture. Every piece of scripture has a redemptive context. Read Genesis 22:1-18. What is your first reaction to this event?
18. Let's practice what we've learned in this series. What is the genre? What is the context?
19. Read Genesis 22:1-18 in different versions. Are there any words that stand out to you? Any big differences in translation?
20. Now think through the redemptive context. Change your question from "Why would God do this?" to "What did God intend for Abraham to learn from this?" Then ask, "What does God intend for me to learn from this?"
21. Now ask yourself our two basic questions: "What does this tell us about Christ?" and "What does this say to us in light of what we know about God through Christ?"
22. End your FIFTEEN by making a list of the attributes of God you see in these verses. Praise God using that list.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

23. Here are four categories of gospel explanation that can help explain how all of scripture bears witness to who Christ is and/or what he must do.

- Some passages clearly predict who Christ is and what he will do.
- Some passages prepare God's people to understand the grace that God must provide to redeem his people.
- If the passage does not clearly predict or prepare for Christ, we can ask, "What does this text reflect about the nature of a redemptive God?" and/or "What does this text reflect about the nature of humanity who require redemption?"
- Lastly, what does the passage say about the results of God's redemptive work on our behalf?

24. Let's practice. Use Leviticus 4:27-31, Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 23, or a passage of your choice. Ask, where is this passage in the arc of God's overall redemptive plan? Meditate on the passage using the four points above or our two basic questions, "What does this tell us about Christ?" and "What does this say to us in light of what we know about God through Christ?"

25. End your FIFTEEN by asking God to show you how you can live in a way that honors Jesus.