

Week beginning 3rd November 2019

## God's Big Picture: The Bible in 6 weeks



### Welcome

Share either:  
Your favourite painting and why  
OR  
Your favourite love story (film, book...) and why



15 mins 3/11

### Worship

Share with one another a favourite story, book or verse from the Old Testament.  
Turn those reflections into an opening time of praise and prayer which may include silence, spoken prayer and/or song



20 mins 3/11

### Word

(It may help leaders to have a look at Lindsey's sermon on Israel, which is attached.)



1. Begin by sharing together your thoughts about the Old Testament - how well do you know it?
2. In 2's, 3's or as a whole group - how many books of the Old Testament can you name? Can you put them in order?
3. The Old Testament is sometimes referred to as the bible Jesus knew. How does this affect the way we read it?

Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20

1. The commandments were intended to bring life and freedom. Why do you think they sometimes have the opposite effect?
2. Thinking of a game of football (or other sport) - without rules there would be anarchy, with rules there is creative freedom to play. Is this a helpful image? Why? If not - why not? Can you come up with an alternative image?

Read Hosea 11:1-11

1. Hosea uses two powerful images to describe God's love for his people - that of a nurturing father and forgiving husband (see Hosea 1-3). What do these pictures tell us about the character of God - and the kind of relationship he longs to have with us?
2. Thinking of the big picture - the Old Testament is fundamentally a love story. It tells of the God who tirelessly seeks us out in order to bring us back to the place of blessing. How does this help us make sense of parts of the Old Testament which we find difficult or confusing?
3. Several of Jesus' parables tell the same story - that of a loving God tirelessly seeking us out. Which do you think most neatly summarises the story of God's people in the Old Testament?
4. Thinking of God as relentlessly seeking us out - how does this help us when either we or those we love are seem lost and far from God?

45 mins 3/11

### Witness

How does the way God loves us impact on the way we love others this week?  
Pray for those who have wandered far from God - that they might be open to the God who is seeking them out and longs to bring them back to himself.



10 mins 3/11