



## Sermon Discussion Guide

Aug. 16 & 17, 2025

"Does the Old Testament Still Matter?"

[Matthew 5:17-19](#)

During this new series, we will explore how to make sense of the Bible and why it is still relevant today. Each week, we'll tackle one big question about the Bible, including why it matters and how you can find your place in God's story.

### PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [hopeonline.tv](#). Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

### GROW

Read [Matthew 5:17-19](#) – "Teaching About the Law"

- How do you feel when you hear Jesus say he didn't come to abolish the law but to accomplish it?
- What does this passage suggest about God's consistency across the Old and New Testaments?
- Pastor Amanda said the law is like the frame of a house, holding everything together. How does that shape your view of the Old Testament?
- How can leaders today teach the Old Testament in a way that honors both its original context and its fulfillment in Jesus?

Read [Genesis 1:26-31](#) – "The Account of Creation"

- How does it make you feel to hear that humanity was created in God's image and declared "very good"?
- Why do you think Scripture emphasizes that both male and female were created in God's image?
- Pastor Amanda said the Old Testament shows us both "the beauty and the brokenness of being human." How does this creation account help you understand that tension?
- How might leaders help others grasp that being made in God's image is foundational to understanding the rest of the Bible?

Read [Job 1:20-22](#) – "Job's First Test"

- When you read Job's response to devastating loss, what emotions rise up in you—comfort, confusion, resistance?
- Why do you think Job chose to worship in the middle of grief rather than turn away from God?
- How does Job's example show us both the depth of human brokenness and the possibility of clinging to God in it?
- How can spiritual leaders walk with others in suffering without offering shallow answers?

Read [Judges 21:25](#) – "Israel Provides Wives for Benjamin"

- When you hear that people did "whatever seemed right in their own eyes," what feelings or images come to mind?
- What does this verse suggest about human nature without God's guidance? Where do you see examples of this same tendency in the world around you today?
- Pastor Amanda said the Old Testament shows us "the raw honesty of being human, both beautiful and broken." How does this verse highlight the danger of rejecting God's authority? What does this reveal about why we need a true king?
- How can Christian leaders help others see that "doing what seems right in your own eyes" leads to destruction?

### APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week.

- **Reflect on Scripture's unity.** This week, choose one Old Testament passage and pair it with a New Testament passage. As you read, ask yourself how the Old Testament frames, foreshadows, or deepens the meaning of the New Testament.
- **Practice honest prayer.** Pastor Amanda pointed to Job as an example of the Bible's raw honesty. Spend 15 minutes in prayer this week where you bring God your unfiltered feelings, grief, joy, doubt, or anger, just as Job did. End your time by asking God to meet you in both the beauty and the brokenness of your humanity.
- **Guide someone else into the story.** Identify someone in your life who tends to dismiss or avoid the Old Testament because it feels confusing, harsh, or irrelevant. Invite them into a conversation, or even to read a short passage with you, and share what you've learned about how the Old Testament frames the whole story of God's redemption. Be intentional to listen as much as you speak.