**He Opened the Scriptures to Us**

**The Word**

Read together Luke 24:13-32

**The Big Idea**

Jesus brings to fulfilment God’s great story in the Hebrew Scriptures. Understanding the stories, themes, and prophecies of the Old Testament helps us deepen our understanding of and appreciation for who Jesus is and what he has done.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. On Sunday it was argued that, despite many people’s assumptions, there is actually great consistency and continuity between Old and New Testaments, and that we see a very similar kind of God in both testaments. How does that idea compare with your own assumptions and with your own reading of the Old and New Testaments?

2. Consider Sunday’s overview of God’s story leading up to Jesus. What was the most impactful theme or aspect of the story for you personally?

3. What was one gap in your understanding of God’s story that was filled on Sunday?

4. How did Sunday’s overview give you a new or deeper appreciation for who Jesus is and what he came to do? Was there a particular theme as it pertains to who he is that stuck out to you?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

To watch Sunday’s presentation with narration, go to: [http://player.vimeo.com/video/275306064](https://player.vimeo.com/video/275306064)

I. Introduction to the summer series

A. On the Emmaus road, Jesus opened the disciples’ minds to how the Old Testament Scriptures point to his person and work (Luke 24:13-32)

B. This summer we’ll go on our own “Emmaus Road” journey and explore various OT themes and stories that culminate in Jesus

C. Our goal is to come to a deeper understanding of and appreciation for who Jesus is and what he has done for us

D. One assumption of this series is that there is great continuity and consistency in the Biblical story between old and new testaments. Some Christians see inconsistencies (OT God is full of wrath, judgment, rules, etc., and NT Jesus is full of grace, mercy, forgiveness), but a deeper reading reveals consistency and continuity. We cannot understand Jesus without understanding the OT story.

I. God’s Story through the Hebrew Scriptures

A. Adam/Creation

1. God makes a world of beauty, order, diversity, and life

2. God makes humans as the pinnacle of his creation

a. A unique identity: Image bearers

b. A unique role: rule over the rest of creation

c. God invites humans to partner with him in bringing his justice, love, peace, and creativity to creation

3. Sin

a. God place one limitation on Adam and Eve: The tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He wanted them to trust him for that knowledge

b. Satan got them to believe the lie that they couldn’t trust God and had to decide for themselves what is good and evil

c. Sin quickly spreads through their family and human society culminating in the building of the Tower of Babel which is the ultimate act of independence from God

B. The call of Abraham (2000 BC)

1. God takes one family from among the nations, enters into a relationship with them, with the purpose of blessing all the nations through this family

2. God enters into a covenant with Abraham

1. He promises descendants, a land, and to bless all peoples through him

2. He asks Abraham to trust and obey him

3. Abraham’s family proves to be broken and messy like all families, but God remains faithful to his promise, and Abraham’s family grows and settles in Egypt

C. Moses and the Exodus (1500 BC)

1. Abraham’s family grows numerous but is also brought under slavery in Egypt

2. God rescues Israel from slavery and reveals himself as:

a. One who remembers his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

b. One who is “compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and full of love”

c. One who is liberator and redeemer

3. God enters into a covenant with Israel: “I will be your God, I will be your God

a. He gives them the law (613 commands) summarized by the 10 commandments which, in turn are summarized in 2 commands: love God, love neighbor

b. He gives them the sacrificial system of tabernacle, priests, and animal sacrifice

c. The relationship is still dependent on God’s grace (“I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of slavery”)

d. Israel’s ability to keep God’s law will serve the purpose of them being different from the nations so that they can be a blessing to the nations

4. Israel’s ability to trust and obey God is very imperfect both in the wilderness and as they enter into the promise land

D. King David and the Monarchy (1000 BC)

1. Israel requests a human king (which is a rejection of God as king) so that they can be like the other nations (which is a rejection of their role to be a light to the nations)

2. God grants them their wish and actually sovereignly uses that imperfect request as part of his plan to bring great blessing to Israel

3. God makes a covenant with David that one of his offspring will rule forever

4. The various kings are very imperfect in their obedience to God as are the people

a. There is a civil war in Israel which gets divided into two kingdoms

b. God raises up the prophets to call the people back to God and call them out for their idolatry and injustice

E. The Exile and the New Covenant (500 BC)

1. The people are taken into exile in Babylon where they are once again slaves

2. The prophets’ message turns to one of hope for a new covenant

a. God would bring them back into the land

b. God’s servant, David, would lead them once again

c. God would change the people’s hearts through his Spirit

d. God would make Israel a light to the nations

e. God would use the “servant of the Lord” whose suffering and death would bring salvation to many

3. The people returned to the land and rebuilt Jerusalem and its temple, but the return was very anticlimactic and failed to meet the expectations of the prophets’ promises

F. Jesus (0)

1. He brings the story to its culmination and fulfilment

a. The new Adam who is the true image bearer

b. Abraham’s descendent who blesses the nations

c. The New Moses who liberates God’s people from slavery

d. The Priest and Sacrifice all in one

e. The ultimate prophet who speaks God’s words to his people

f. The Messianic King

g. The Servant of the Lord

2. He is God himself in the flesh coming to do for his people what they can’t do for themselves