

**“WHEN EVERYTHING IS UNRAVELLING”**  
**Who Even Is God?**  
**20250504**  
**LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Summary:**

By embracing Jesus as the full revelation of what God is like we can find freedom from fear and a call to trust His relentless love for humanity.

**Key Verse:**

John 14:9 - Jesus said...”Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”

**Discussion Guide:**

1. How has what you think about when you think about who God is changed over time? What you’re earliest memory of God? Is that different than how you imagine/know him today?

Facilitator Tip: Each of us has a unique story of our understanding of God. Encourage your group members to think about their own story and what key life events have influenced their perception of God. Key life events could include childhood experiences of church, their family of origin, grappling with the reality of suffering and death, journeying with God through the seasons of life.

2. Read John 14:8-11. Why do you think it’s important that Jesus says, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father”? How does Jesus’ life shape your view of the Father?

Facilitator Tip: Encourage your group members to think back to Pete’s teaching about this on Sunday. Jesus is one in essence with the Father (Colossians 1:15). His words and actions are a perfect reflection of God’s will and character. This is why Jesus could say, “I and the Father are one.” John 10:30. If we want to know what the Father is like, we should look at Jesus’ life of service, sacrifice, generosity, humility and so on.

3. How can trusting that God is always like Jesus help you interpret difficult passages in the Old Testament?

Facilitator Tip: Ask your group members what depictions of God’s character or actions of God in the Old Testament that they struggle with. For example, God’s command to the Israelites to kill the Canaanites, including women and children, is something we can

struggle with and ask, “How can a loving God command this?” Trusting that God is always like Jesus reminds us that God’s character is consistent throughout the Bible. Jesus showed righteous anger and He warned of God’s judgment, but He also showed incredible love and grace. All of this flows from God’s holiness.

4. Read Luke 24:13-27. In verse 27 Luke tells us that Jesus saw the Old Testament as pointing to himself. How can reading the Bible through the lens that it’s one cohesive story that leads us to Jesus help us when we have difficulty with certain parts of the Bible?

Facilitator Tip: Encourage your group members about the value of reading the entire Bible. Jesus greatly valued what we call the Old Testament because those Scriptures point to Him. We should value the OT Scriptures and as we read them ask, “How does what I’m reading here help me know Jesus more?” There may be certain parts of the Bible I’ll never fully understand until I get to heaven, but I can trust that all of Scripture points to Jesus.

5. One way of interpreting God’s wrath in Scripture is to see it as God handing people over to the natural consequences of their sin in order to teach and restore. For instance read Romans 1:18-32. Do you find this to be a helpful definition? Why or why not?

Facilitator Tip: Read through the question to your group and allow them to wrestle with it. Why would God want to teach and restore us? So that we can be brought into a right relationship with Him. He wants to move us from living a life of disobedience and rebellion toward Him, to finding salvation through Him. Learning from the natural consequences of our sin can move us in this direction. (see Romans 3:9-24)

6. How can you trust God’s love when facing or witnessing sin’s consequences, and what’s one way you can show His love to someone affected by these consequences?

Facilitator Tip: Some thoughts to consider: Regardless of what consequences we’re facing, we know God loves us because He has given us His Son to die for us (John 3:16). We can trust that He will keep us in His love and work out His good plan for us (Philippians 1:6). We can show His love through being a friend to someone affected by the consequences of sin – through listening, caring and praying with them. Ultimately we show God’s love through pointing others to Jesus.

7. What does it mean to hold our theological house as different than the actual person of Jesus? Do you find this distinction helpful?

Facilitator Tip: Think back to Pete’s sermon for how he distinguished between our theological house and the actual person of Jesus. What rooms may need to be

deconstructed in my theological house or what rooms may need to be added in order to build my house to match the character and teachings of Jesus?

**Prayer Exercise:**

Read Romans 5:8 and Psalm 103:8.

Then pray together for individuals or groups facing sin's consequences and ask God to pour out his love on them and to redeem them.