

# Small Group Guide: Why Does Torah Matter?

## Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts and minds to understand His Word as a unified story that we are living in today.

## Icebreaker (5-10 minutes)

**Question:** Share about a movie or book where you walked in late or started in the middle. How did that affect your understanding of the story?

## Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The Bible is one continuous story** - It begins at the beginning (Genesis) and moves toward the end (Revelation), with everything in the middle connecting these two points.
2. **Every story has a setting and a problem** - Understanding the beginning of the Bible's story is essential to interpreting everything that follows.
3. **We are living in this story** - As Dr. Klingler said, "You best start believing in the Bible story because you're in it."
4. **The story centers on Israel and the promised Messiah** - God is faithful to His covenant people, and through them, blessing comes to all nations.
5. **Our relationship with Christ is expressed tangibly through His body** - We cannot claim to love Christ whom we haven't seen while neglecting fellow believers we can see.

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Story (15-20 minutes)

1. **The speaker mentioned that most people read the Bible by skipping around to verses they like rather than reading it as a continuous story. Why do you think we tend to read the Bible this way? What are we missing when we do?**
2. **How does understanding that "stories begin at the beginning" change the way you approach reading the Old Testament, especially books like Leviticus or Numbers?**

3. **The sermon emphasized that the Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) tells Israel who they are, why they exist, where they're going, and what they're supposed to do. Why is this foundational for understanding the rest of Scripture?**

### **Personal Application (15-20 minutes)**

4. **Dr. Klingler said, "You're in this story... You're you in it." What does it mean practically that you are living in this biblical story right now? How does this perspective change how you view current events or your daily life?**
5. **Discuss this statement: "The only tangible, touchable, feelable, hearable relationship that you have with Christ is with his body of which you are a member." How does this challenge or encourage you in your relationships with other believers?**

### **Going Deeper (10-15 minutes)**

6. **Dr. Klingler mentioned that Paul told Gentile believers they needed to learn Israel's story to understand their own salvation. How much do you know about the Old Testament story? What obstacles have kept you from studying it?**
7. **How does understanding the "beginning and end" of the biblical story help you navigate the "middle" (where we currently live)? Can you think of specific examples?**

### **Closing Prayer (5 minutes)**

Pray together:

- Thank God for revealing His story to us
- Ask for wisdom to understand Scripture as a unified narrative
- Pray for grace to love fellow members of Christ's body
- Ask God to help you live faithfully in your part of the story as you await Christ's return