

# THE BIBLE *for* GROWN-UPS

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### Week 3: *New Meets Old*

#### *Isaiah 53 and Galatians 4*

**Bottom line - Because Jesus rose from the dead, the Jewish worldview became interesting and the Jewish scriptures became interesting, and what the first-century gentiles found while looking for Jesus in the Law and the Prophets was a much bigger, more powerful, and HOLY image of God than they had yet to imagine.**

1. Discuss a story or idea from the Old Testament that someone tried to tidy up and soften the edges of to serve their practical purpose in teaching you. What's the difference in seeing the Old Testament as a spiritual guidebook versus a history of the Hebrew nation?
2. As a group, discuss a few words and phrases you associate with each of the following subjects: *Abraham, Moses, Sinai Covenant, Kings, Temple, Prophets*
3. Many people criticize the seemingly unsophisticated nature of the Sinai covenant and use it as a reason to abandon faith. In actuality, the Hebrew nation, because of the guidelines in Leviticus, was way ahead of its time.

Which of the following ideas is most surprising or meaningful to you? What do these ideas change about the way you see God? What do they change about your view of the purpose of the Old Testament?

- The covenant represented a moral and civil code that ascribed inherent dignity to every person.
  - The covenant included a sexual ethic that protected the weak and vulnerable.
  - The covenant viewed humanity as the pinnacle of creation because every person is made in God's image.
  - Women, servants, foreigners, and children all fared better under Hebrew law than did their counterparts in the surrounding nations.
4. **Read Isaiah 53:5–11.** What is the most meaningful image to you in this passage?

5. **Read Galatians 4:4–5.** What does it mean that Jesus would redeem those under the law? What is different about the relationship we can have with God versus the relationship an ancient Jew could have with him?