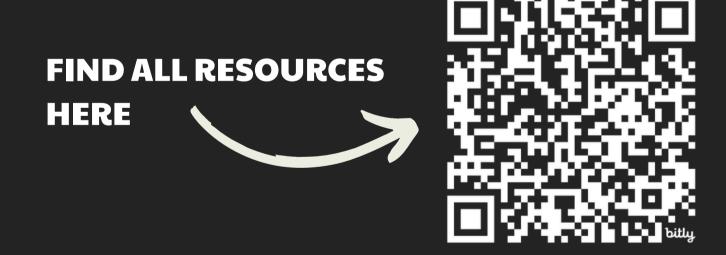
# 2025 Bible Reading Plan

# SMALL GROUP HOST GUIDE



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# GROUP GUIDE

#### **HOW IT WORKS**



Groups consist of 8-12 people from your church community. A Bible reading campaign is also a great opportunity to invite friends, coworkers, or neighbors who wouldn't normally join a Bible study but are open to an eight week commitment to read the Bible in a "book club" model. Just try to keep your group under 12 people— it gets difficult to manage after that.



Meet together once per week, planning to spend 60-90 minutes in discussion. Be sure to honor your group members' time by setting a specific start and end time. When time is up, let people know they are free to leave. Of course, if they want to continue talking then use your judgment to give them options for where to continue the conversation.



Even though you are the "host," the meeting doesn't need to take place at your home. We recommend choosing somewhere that is comfortable, quiet, and free of distractions. Snacks and refreshments are great during or after discussion time. Some groups like to share a meal together before discussion.

#### **DAILY TIPS**

Commit to reading the Bible as you would any other book, from start to finish. At first it may feel strange to read at length without any notes or chapter breaks, but you'll get used to it. While you read, try to resist the urge to look at any notes or commentaries in other Bibles. Simply read the Bible as a story—you can go back and "dig deep" later.

Read the assigned readings each day, which will be around 12 pages. Don't skip any intros or resources from your church; they help set the stage for your reading. Many people say reading and listening to the audio version at the same time is helpful. Try to make your reading a part of your daily schedule.

As you read, think about the topics or questions that you will use to begin your discussion. There may be parts of the reading that stood out to you, or you can find recommended conversation starters on the Quick Start Guide that comes inside the book. Feel free to make notes in the book or in a separate journal.

#### **WEEKLY GROUP TIME**

Meet once a week in groups to talk about what you've read. Treat these gatherings more like a book club than a Bible study. The goal is to have open, honest conversations about your reactions to the week's reading.

Use and prepare to answer the following 4 questions each week. Remember, each of these questions is meant to lead to discussion, not quick responses.

#### 4 conversation starters:

- What stood out to you this week?
- Was there anything confusing or troubling?
- Did anything make you think differently about God?
- How might this change the way we live?

# HOST GUIDE

- Encourage your group to stick to the reading schedule. There will inevitably be days when they can't find time to read, but they should try not to fall too far behind. If a group member hasn't finished the reading in time for the group discussion, have them skip ahead to the current week rather than trying to catch up. They can always go back later and read what they missed.
- Incorporate prayer into the experience. Each day before reading, group members should pause and pray, asking the Holy Spirit to open their hearts to receive God's word (we've included a sample prayer at the beginning of each Immerse volume). We also encourage you to open each group discussion with prayer.
- Have clearly agreed-upon start and finish times and commit to keeping them.
- Sometimes one of your group members will have something specific they want to talk about at the beginning. If so, great. If not, use the discussion questions the GROUP Method to get the conversation started.

- Emphasize respect for others. If you'd like, share these rules for good conversation with your group at the beginning of each meeting: .
  - 1. Don't dominate the conversation.
  - 2. Listen carefully to others.
  - 3. Respect others and what they share, even if you disagree.
  - 4. Try not to interrupt—you will get a chance to speak
- Some people may want to search for answers on the internet during the discussion. While this can be helpful on occasion, try to keep it from becoming distracting or disruptive. Encourage group members to stay engaged in the conversation; they can look things up later.
- Try to keep the conversation moving. If a question or issue gets to be too difficult, don't get bogged down.

  Table the topic, contact your pastor for assistance, then come back to it the following week.

# TOOLS & RESOURCES

#### 1. FREE AUDIO VERSION PODCAST

Full audio recording that follows the natural literary breaks found in Immerse: The Reading Bible. It is the full text of the NLT Bible with the Immerse Bible book introductions, and that's all. No additional commentary. Just the Bible.

#### 2. POWERFUL VIDEO RESOURCES

Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" - Day 6

You can find video resources to share with your groups from Immerse and Bible Project by clicking or scanning the codes below or on the One Million More resource portal.

#### 3. HAVE KIDS? GRAB THE FAMILY GUIDE!

Abridged reading, Hey-O! video and podcast Bible stories, and a guide for going through the Bible the way it was written to be read... together!

#### **AVAILABLE AS A PODCAST ON ALL PLATFORMS**





Scan, click. or search for the Immerse Messiah - 8 week podcast on your favorite app.

#### **VIDEOS TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE WHOLE NT**





Bible Project has created free video overviews for each book in the New Testament and more.

#### **DOWNLOAD THE PLAN AND FOLLOW ALONG**





Get a fun Bible reading board game, videos, kids podcasts, and more!

# WEEK 1 GUIDE

#### **WEEK 1**

#### **LUKE-ACTS, PART 1**

**Immerse Weekly Summary** 



#### **BIBLE PROJECT VIDEOS**

Luke 1-9



Luke 10-24



#### If you get stuck, try the GROUP Method for discussion.

#### Gather

Gather together as a group, a family, a Bible study, small group or just some friends.

#### Read

Read the passage any passages that stood out to you this week

### Observe

Make your own personal observations about the passage.

- What stood out to you this week?
- Was there anything confusing or troubling?
- Did anything make you think differently about God?
- How might this change the way we live?

# **Understanding**

Share each other's observations, and examine how and why the others in your group made those observations. Note when everyone has the same observations, and where there are a variety of observations.

# **Prayer**

# WEEK 2 GUIDE

#### WEEK 2

#### **ACTS, 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS**

**Immerse Weekly Summary** 



#### **BIBLE PROJECT VIDEOS TO SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERS**

**Acts 1-12** 



**Acts 13-28** 



1 Thessalonians



2 Thessalonians



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# **Prayer**

# WEEK 3 GUIDE

**WEEK 3** 

1 & 2 CORINTHIANS, GALATIANS, ROMANS

**Immerse Weekly Summary** 



#### **BIBLE PROJECT VIDEOS TO SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERS**

1 Corinthians



2 Corinthians



Galatians



**Ephesians** 



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### Prayer

# WEEK 4 GUIDE

#### WEEK 4

ROMANS, PHILEMON, COLOSSIANS, EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, 1 TIMOTHY, TITUS, 2 TIMOTHY

**Immerse Weekly Summary** 



#### **BIBLE PROJECT VIDEOS TO SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERS**



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#### Read

Read the passage any passages that stood out to you this week

### Observe

Make your own personal observations about the passage.

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### **Prayer**

# WEEK 5 GUIDE

#### WEEK 5

#### MARK, 1 & 2 PETER, JUDE

**Immerse Weekly Summary** 



#### **BIBLE PROJECT VIDEOS TO SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERS**

Mark



1 Peter



2 Peter



Jude

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#### Read

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# **Prayer**

# WEEK 6 GUIDE

WEEK 6

**MATTHEW** 

**Immerse Weekly Summary** 



#### **BIBLE PROJECT VIDEOS TO SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERS**

Matthew 1-13 Matthew 14-28





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#### Read

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### **Prayer**

# WEEK 7 GUIDE

#### WEEK 7

#### **HEBREWS, JAMES, JOHN**

**Immerse Weekly Summary** 



#### **BIBLE PROJECT VIDEOS TO SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERS**

**Hebrews** 

James

John 1-12







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### Read

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### Observe

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# Praye

# WEEK 8 GUIDE

#### WEEK 8

### **JOHN, 1-3 JOHN, REVELATION**

**Immerse Weekly Summary** 



#### **BIBLE PROJECT VIDEOS TO SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERS**

John 13-21

1-3 John

Revelation 1-11

Revelation 12-22









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#### Read

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### Observe

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### Prayer