



I M M E R S E

The **Bible** Reading Experience™

Group Leader's Guide

Immerse: Kingdoms

Old Testament

Contents

Dear Church Leader,

Thank you for considering *Immerse* for use in your church family.

At Tyndale House, our desire is to change the world by making God known. We seek to impact millions of lives through words that restore, empower, and encourage God's people as they minister to their families and communities.

We see our products as an offering to God and his church, believing that one life transformed can, in turn, impact the lives of many.

Our work at Tyndale is a Kingdom enterprise that goes beyond individual rewards to a shared vision of a world renewed and redeemed.

Our prayer is that you will find our products and services to be a blessing to you, your congregation, and your community.

Sincerely,
Tyndale House Publishers



Welcome to Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience.....	2
What Is Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience?.....	3
How Immerse Works.....	4
Planning Your Group Experience.....	5
How to Guide Conversations.....	6
Best Practices.....	8
<i>Immerse: Kingdoms Reading Plan</i>...	10

Welcome to Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience

Dear Group Leader,

Thank you for volunteering to lead your small group through Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience. As you begin to understand *Immerse*, you'll find that it's quite different from a traditional Bible study. As a group leader, it's important to know that your role will be as a *facilitator* rather than as a *teacher*.

This Group Leader's Guide is designed to answer your questions and walk you through some of the best practices for how to lead your small group through Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience.

If you have any questions that are not addressed in this guide or if we can support you in any way, please contact us at csresponse@tyndale.com or 1-855-277-9400.

Sincerely,



What Is Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience?

Immerse is an *intentionally simple*, fresh way of experiencing the Bible—together.

It all starts with *Immerse: The Reading Bible*. This innovative new format presents the Scriptures without the modern additives of chapters, verses, section headings, or notes. Instead, each book is presented in a way that honors the literary forms the authors chose to use. It invites readers to experience the Bible in a natural and familiar way—letters look like letters and poetry looks like poetry. Passages are laid out on the page in ways that enhance their clarity.

Now that your congregation is reading the Bible in a new way, they can talk about it in a new way. *Immerse* is built on weekly community group book club conversations. Once a week, groups of 8-10 people will gather and simply talk about what they've read in honest, unmediated conversations. We've included conversation starters like, "What stood out to you this week?" or "Was there anything confusing or troubling?"

Finally, *Immerse* invites your church to establish an ongoing culture of Bible reading through a three-year Bible reading rhythm. By reading together twice a year, your church can read through all six volumes—the entire Bible—in three years.

How Immerse Works

- 1 **First:** Commit to reading each volume of *Immerse: The Reading Bible* as you would any other book, from start to finish. The first goal here is to experience the different books of the Bible as complete and unique writings. The more books you read, the more you will see the overall story emerging. The point is to have a fresh experience of the Bible in this simple, natural format.
- 2 **Second:** Read the assigned readings each day. Don't skip the book introductions; they help set the stage for your reading. Many people say reading and listening to the audio version at the same time is very helpful. Try to make your reading a part of your daily schedule. See it as an opportunity and not a task.
- 3 **Third:** As you read, think about the questions you will use to begin your discussion. You can find these at the bottom of the Quick Start Guide that comes inside the book. Feel free to make notes in the book or in a separate journal. Write down your observations, questions, and reactions.
- 4 **Fourth:** Meet once a week in community groups to talk about what you've read. Treat these gatherings more like a book club—open, honest conversations about your reactions to that week's reading.

Planning Your Group Experience

Who

Immerse groups consist of 8-10 people from your church community. *Immerse* 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 it under 12 people—it gets difficult to manage after that.

When

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 your group know they are free to leave. Of course, if people want to continue talking, then use your judgment to give them options for where to continue the conversation.

Where

We recommend choosing a meeting place that is comfortable, quiet, and free of distractions. Snacks and refreshments are great during or after discussion time. If you meet at somebody's house, perhaps you'd like to have a meal together before discussion.

How to Guide Conversations

Remember, your main role as the group leader is to facilitate the conversation. You aren't the teacher, so you should feel free to fully participate in the discussion without the responsibility of providing the "right answers."

Here are some suggestions for leading the group effectively:

- 1 Have clearly agreed upon start and finish times and commit to keeping them.
- 2 At the end of each discussion, show the video trailer for the upcoming week's reading. You can find these at [ImmerseBible.com](https://www.immersebible.com). These videos are a great way to get your group into the right mindset for what they're about to read.
- 3 Emphasize respect for others. If you'd like, share these "rules for good conversation" with your group at the beginning of each meeting:
 - Don't dominate the conversation.
 - Listen carefully to others.
 - Respect others and what they share, even if you disagree.
 - Try not to interrupt—you will get a chance to speak.

4 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 on the Quick Start Guide book insert to get the conversation started.

5 If a question or issue gets to be too difficult, don't get bogged down. Table the topic until next week, contact your pastor for assistance, and then come back to it the following week. Try to keep the conversation moving.

Best Practices: 4 key things you can do to help your group have the best possible experience

- 1 **Encourage your group to stick to the reading schedule.** There will inevitably be days when members of your group can't find time to read, but they should try not to fall too far behind. Reading several days' worth of text the night before you meet will not only be unenjoyable, it won't give time to properly reflect on the reading.

**Note: 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 read everything to catch up. They can always go back and read what they missed after the eight weeks are over.*

- 2 **Communicate with your pastor.** Write down key questions, concerns, doubts, and fears that are discussed (without names attached), and share them with your pastor. This will be a great way for your pastor to plan future sermons that speak to the hearts of your congregation.

- 3 **Encourage your group to incorporate prayer into their 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 *Immerse: Messiah*.) We also encourage you to open each group discussion with prayer.

- 4 **Share your stories!** Tell your pastor and other group leaders about the discussions and discoveries your group has had. We would love to hear your stories as well—record a video or write them down and email them to stories@ImmerseBible.com.

Above all, enjoy the experience!

Immerse is all about experiencing life together in the Bible. Our hope is that by reading in this fresh new way, you and your church will grow closer to God, closer to the Bible, and closer to each other. So enjoy the journey, build relationships, and let reading the Bible become a delight.

Reading Plans for Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience

Immerse: Kingdoms Reading Plan

Week 1

Day 1	pp. A9-4
Day 2	pp. 4-10
Day 3	pp. 10-19
Day 4	pp. 19-32
Day 5	pp. 32-39

Joshua

pp. A9-4
pp. 4-10
pp. 10-19
pp. 19-32
pp. 32-39

Week 2

Day 6	pp. 41-52
Day 7	pp. 52-61
Day 8	pp. 61-72
Day 9	pp. 72-80
Day 10	pp. 81-88

Judges, Ruth

pp. 41-52
pp. 52-61
pp. 61-72
pp. 72-80
pp. 81-88

Week 3

Day 11	pp. 89-95
Day 12	pp. 96-100
Day 13	pp. 100-106
Day 14	pp. 106-114
Day 15	pp. 114-122

Samuel–Kings

pp. 89-95
pp. 96-100
pp. 100-106
pp. 106-114
pp. 114-122

Week 4

Day 16	pp. 122-129
Day 17	pp. 129-135
Day 18	pp. 135-142
Day 19	pp. 143-147
Day 20	pp. 147-153

Samuel–Kings

pp. 122-129
pp. 129-135
pp. 135-142
pp. 143-147
pp. 147-153

Week 5

Day 21	pp. 153-159
Day 22	pp. 159-166
Day 23	pp. 166-176
Day 24	pp. 176-180
Day 25	pp. 180-183

Samuel–Kings

pp. 153-159
pp. 159-166
pp. 166-176
pp. 176-180
pp. 180-183

Week 6

Day 26	pp. 183-189
Day 27	pp. 189-195
Day 28	pp. 195-200
Day 29	pp. 200-205
Day 30	pp. 205-210

Samuel–Kings

pp. 183-189
pp. 189-195
pp. 195-200
pp. 200-205
pp. 205-210

Week 7

Day 31	pp. 210-215
Day 32	pp. 215-222
Day 33	pp. 222-228
Day 34	pp. 228-237
Day 35	pp. 237-242

Samuel–Kings

pp. 210-215
pp. 215-222
pp. 222-228
pp. 228-237
pp. 237-242

Week 8

Day 36	pp. 242-248
Day 37	pp. 248-255
Day 38	pp. 255-260
Day 39	pp. 260-267
Day 40	pp. 267-271

Samuel–Kings

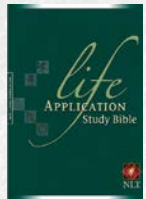
pp. 242-248
pp. 248-255
pp. 255-260
pp. 260-267
pp. 267-271

Resources for Bible Study between Volumes

Immerse has been created to help churches begin a 3-year rhythm of reading the entire Bible in community. Start dates for fall and spring are suggested to allow your congregation to complete the readings by Advent and Easter, respectively.

That leaves time between *Immerse* small group sessions for other Bible teaching opportunities.

Bible Study: Many churches will focus their study on a particular book or topic that was covered during their *Immerse* small group readings. This can be a great benefit for the congregation, as they gain the benefit of studying Scripture that they understand in context and holistically.



Tyndale's *Life Application Study Bible* is a great resource for in-depth Bible study. The LASB is today's best-selling study Bible and has been a market leader for 20 years. Readers can use the New Living Translation version—the same translation that is used for *Immerse*—or they can choose translations such as the NIV, KJV, NKJV, HCSB, or NASB.

Specialty Group Study: Opportunities abound for group studies for specific church populations. Men's groups, women's groups, addiction recovery groups, and groups to address and alleviate grieving are just a few. The format of the text and dynamics of the *Immerse* small group serves as a solid foundation for deeper examination of specific areas.

Life Application, *Life App*, the Life App logo, *Inspire*, and *Life Recovery* are registered trademarks of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. *Beyond Suffering* is a registered trademark of Joni and Friends.

Tyndale offers a host of Bibles to fit a broad set of needs.



The #1–selling *Inspire Bible* has been used across the country in women's groups. This Bible creatively brings people closer to God and helps strengthen bonds among church members. A second, all-new *Inspire PRAISE Bible* is also available.



The *Every Man's Bible* provides godly advice and direction for issues particular to men. It has been a staple for Christian men for years and can be instrumental in helping men lead in the roles God has called them to fulfill.



The *Life Recovery Bible* has led over 2 million people to the true source of recovery—God himself. For communities suffering from addiction to prescription painkillers, drugs/alcohol, gambling, pornography, or lust, *The Life Recovery Bible* has brought light to those in the grip of the darkness of addiction.

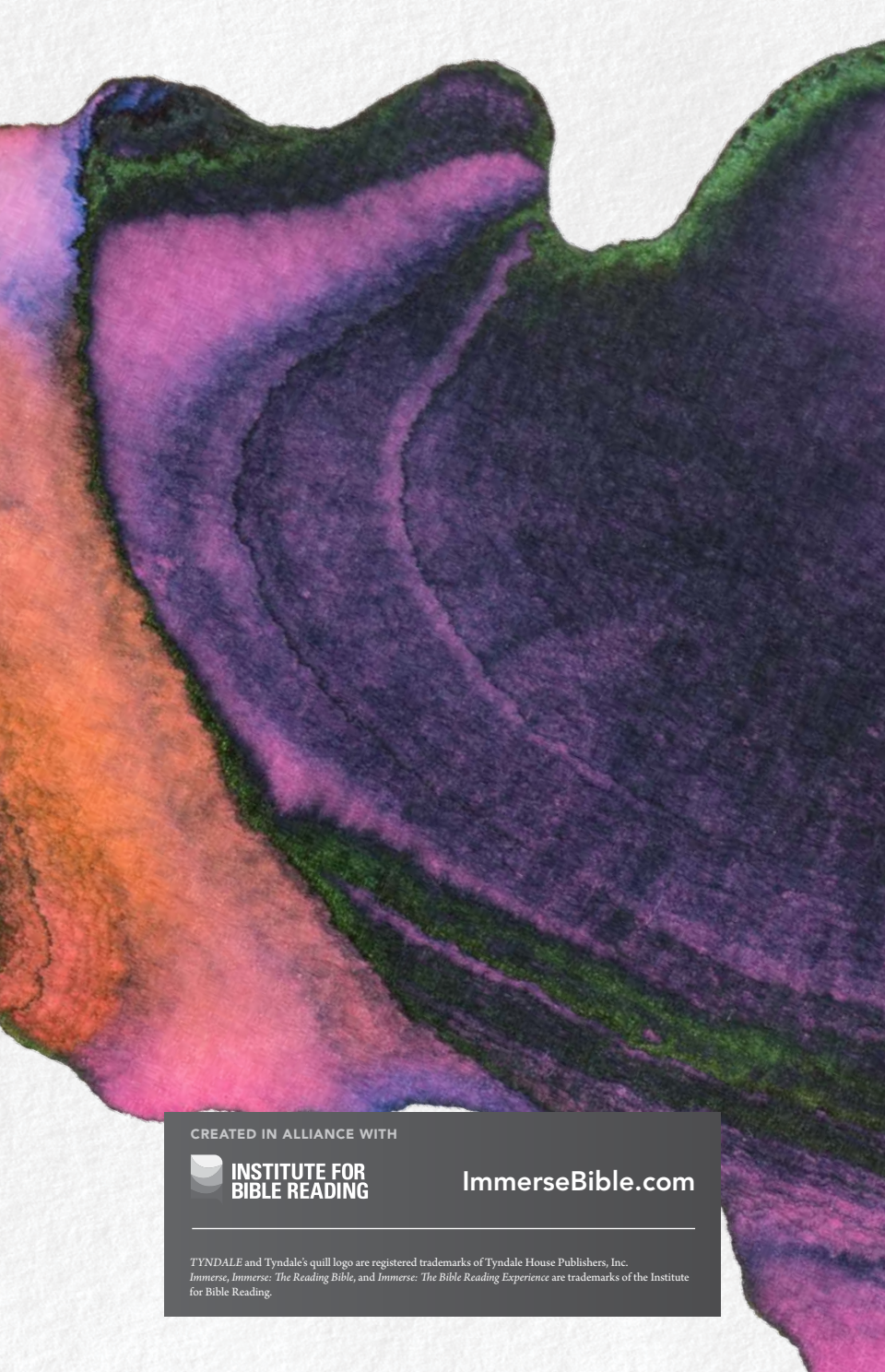


The *Beyond Suffering Bible* has helped readers find hope as they deal with a whole range of painful situations such as physical and mental disabilities, thoughts of suicide, cancer, and chronic pain. Testimonies from readers of the *Beyond Suffering Bible* confirm that God's hope is infinite and is sufficient for any struggle.

God's Word meets you wherever you are. You could be suffering, rejoicing, struggling, being bullied, or celebrating recovery. Wherever you are, God's Word will meet you there.

To preview any of these Bibles, go to <https://www.tyndale.com/bibles>

We look forward to partnering with you.



CREATED IN ALLIANCE WITH



**INSTITUTE FOR
BIBLE READING**

ImmerseBible.com

TYNDALE and Tyndale's quill logo are registered trademarks of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
Immerse, *Immerse: The Reading Bible*, and *Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience* are trademarks of the Institute
for Bible Reading.