



I M M E R S E

The **Bible** Reading Experience™

# Pastor's Guide

# 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



<b>Welcome to Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>What Is Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience?.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>How Immerse Works.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Planning Checklist.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Best Practices.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Reading Plans.....</b>	<b>10</b>

## Welcome to Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience

Dear Pastor,

We are so pleased you have decided to bring Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience to your church. *Immerse* was designed with one goal in mind: to help congregations experience the Bible together in a unique and powerful way.

As the leader of your church, it is important that you champion this experience by promoting it and encouraging your entire congregation to participate. This Immerse Pastor's Guide is designed to answer your questions and walk you through some of the best practices for how to implement Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience in your church.

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](mailto: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 Checklist: Before

### Before the Experience

- ☐ 8-12+ Weeks Out: Involve your entire church staff and key leaders in the initial planning for Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience.
- ☐ 4-6 Weeks Out: Begin promoting *Immerse* to your congregation each Sunday. You can download all of the *Immerse* materials including videos and a graphics kit at [ImmerseBible.com](http://ImmerseBible.com).
- ☐ 4-6 Weeks Out: Lead a training session with all of your group leaders and explain the unmediated nature of *Immerse*. Reiterate that as group leaders their main role is to *facilitate* conversation. Be sure to have the Group Leader's Guide available (included with Immerse Resources).
- ☐ 3-5 Weeks Out: Create discussion groups that fit the context of your church. Try to have less than 12 people in each group. If existing small groups work, great! You will likely have to create new groups for anyone not involved in a group already.
- ☐ 3 Weeks Out: Order the appropriate number of copies of *Immerse: The Reading Bible* for your church.
- ☐ 1-2 Weeks Out: Distribute copies of *Immerse: The Reading Bible* to participants. Each copy will include an insert that contains a participant Quick Start Guide, reading plan, discussion questions, and URL for additional materials.

## Planning Checklist: During

### During the Experience

- ☐ Meet with your group leaders to check in and see if anyone has any new questions.
- ☐ Take an active role in encouraging your congregation through their Bible experience. We recommend preparing your sermons based on each week's reading, reinforcing that *Immerse* is central to your church's spiritual journey for eight weeks.
- ☐ Share stories as they happen by writing stories or emailing videos to [stories@ImmerseBible.com](mailto:stories@ImmerseBible.com). We want to hear about your church's experience with the Bible during these eight weeks.
- ☐ Upon Completion: Celebrate! Finishing such a large portion of the Scriptures together is a milestone achievement. Make sure your congregation appreciates their accomplishment, and begin encouraging a regular Bible reading rhythm.

## Planning Checklist: After

### After the Experience

- ☐ Send feedback about your experience to [csreponse@tyndale.com](mailto:csreponse@tyndale.com). We'd love to hear about any suggestions, questions, or problems. We'd also like to know how your church did—how many people finished, their reactions to this style of reading together, etc.
- ☐ Encourage your congregation to keep immersing themselves in the Bible outside of whole-church *Immerse* campaigns. Keep reading whole books and talking about them together.
- ☐ If you had a great experience, tell other pastors and churches about it.
- ☐ Begin preparing for your church's next *Immerse* experience.

## Best Practices: 6 key things you can do to help your congregation have the best possible experience

- 1 Take the lead.** *Immerse* offers the opportunity to focus your church's attention on reading the Bible together during a specific period of time. As much as possible, make this the singular focus of your life together during these weeks. If you champion this experience, your church will follow.
- 2 Involve other staff and key leaders in the process.** This is a wonderful opportunity to break down the silos or barriers that can form between different areas of ministry in your church. Take advantage of this opportunity to come together as a team around a single purpose.
- 3 Make use of the additional resources.** The weekly videos, audio, and Family Guide are designed to enhance the experience for each member of your community. Encourage your congregation to utilize them and adapt them to best fit the needs of your church.
- 4 Include your entire congregation.** This isn't just for adults. Encourage your youth and children's ministries to participate in *Immerse*, and ask parents to use the Family Guide to bring this experience into their homes. Invite families to read aloud together! Cross-generational involvement will strengthen the bonds within your church and ensure one "heartbeat" for eight weeks.

- 5 Make it work for your context.** The materials and outline we've provided reflect what we believe is the best way for your church to experience the Bible together. But if something doesn't work for your church, we encourage you to adapt this program to fit your needs. Just make sure the core DNA of *Immerse* remains intact: reading at length and having honest, unmediated conversations around the text.

- 6 Keep it simple!** This is difficult because it is not what most of us normally experience in traditional Bible studies. But the evidence is overwhelming that simply reading the Bible and then discussing it in community has great impact. So be willing to let the Holy Spirit work through the word of God as people engage in reading the entire Bible, often for the first time. Then, at a later time, build on this foundation through more in-depth study.

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: Messiah* Reading Plan

### **Week 1**

Day 1	pp. A9-12
Day 2	pp. 13-27
Day 3	pp. 28-37
Day 4	pp. 37-47
Day 5	pp. 47-59

### **Week 2**

#### **Acts, 1 & 2 Thessalonians**

Day 6	pp. 61-70
Day 7	pp. 70-82
Day 8	pp. 82-94
Day 9	pp. 95-110
Day 10	pp. 111-123

### **Week 3**

#### **1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Romans**

Day 11	pp. 125-135
Day 12	pp. 135-148
Day 13	pp. 149-164
Day 14	pp. 165-175
Day 15	pp. 177-190

### **Week 4**

#### **Romans, Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon, 1 Timothy, Titus, 2 Timothy**

Day 16	pp. 190-202
Day 17	pp. 203-214
Day 18	pp. 215-224
Day 19	pp. 225-241
Day 20	pp. 243-255

### **Week 5**

Day 21	pp. 257-268
Day 22	pp. 268-279
Day 23	pp. 279-292
Day 24	pp. 293-301
Day 25	pp. 303-310

### **Week 6**

#### **Matthew**

Day 26	pp. 311-324
Day 27	pp. 324-336
Day 28	pp. 337-345
Day 29	pp. 345-358
Day 30	pp. 358-366

### **Week 7**

#### **Hebrews, James, John**

Day 31	pp. 367-377
Day 32	pp. 377-387
Day 33	pp. 389-396
Day 34	pp. 397-411
Day 35	pp. 411-423

### **Week 8**

#### **John, 1-3 John, Revelation**

Day 36	pp. 424-437
Day 37	pp. 439-452
Day 38	pp. 453-459
Day 39	pp. 460-471
Day 40	pp. 471-482

# Reading Plans for Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience

## *Immerse: Beginnings* Reading Plan

### **Week 1**

#### **Genesis**

Day 1	pp. A9-7
Day 2	pp. 7-16
Day 3	pp. 16-24
Day 4	pp. 24-35
Day 5	pp. 36-45

### **Week 2**

#### **Genesis**

Day 6	pp. 45-55
Day 7	pp. 55-61
Day 8	pp. 61-66
Day 9	pp. 66-74
Day 10	pp. 74-81

### **Week 3**

#### **Exodus**

Day 11	pp. 83-91
Day 12	pp. 91-100
Day 13	pp. 100-108
Day 14	pp. 108-113
Day 15	pp. 113-122

### **Week 4**

#### **Exodus**

Day 16	pp. 122-126
Day 17	pp. 126-133
Day 18	pp. 133-139
Day 19	pp. 139-145
Day 20	pp. 145-149

### **Week 5**

#### **Leviticus**

Day 21	pp. 151-159
Day 22	pp. 159-169
Day 23	pp. 169-179
Day 24	pp. 179-188
Day 25	pp. 188-199

### **Week 6**

#### **Numbers**

Day 26	pp. 201-210
Day 27	pp. 210-221
Day 28	pp. 221-229
Day 29	pp. 229-238
Day 30	pp. 238-248

### **Week 7**

#### **Numbers, Deuteronomy**

Day 31	pp. 248-259
Day 32	pp. 259-269
Day 33	pp. 271-279
Day 34	pp. 279-287
Day 35	pp. 287-295

### **Week 8**

#### **Deuteronomy**

Day 36	pp. 295-302
Day 37	pp. 302-310
Day 38	pp. 310-315
Day 39	pp. 315-323
Day 40	pp. 324-327

# Reading Plans for Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience

## *Immerse: Kingdoms Reading Plan*

### **Week 1**

#### **Joshua**

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

### **Week 2**

#### **Judges, Ruth**

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

### **Week 3**

#### **Samuel–Kings**

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

### **Week 4**

#### **Samuel–Kings**

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

### **Week 5**

#### **Samuel–Kings**

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

### **Week 6**

#### **Samuel–Kings**

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

### **Week 7**

#### **Samuel–Kings**

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

### **Week 8**

#### **Samuel–Kings**

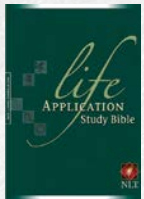
Day 36	pp. 242-248
Day 37	pp. 248-255
Day 38	pp. 255-260
Day 39	pp. 260-267
Day 40	pp. 267-271

## 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.

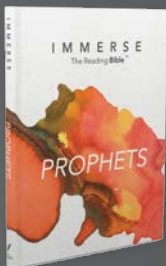


The *Beyond Suffering Bible* has helped readers find hope as they deal with a whole range of painful situations such as physical and mental disabilities, thoughts of suicide, cancer, and chronic pain. Testimonies from readers of the *Beyond Suffering Bible* confirm that God's hope is infinite and is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

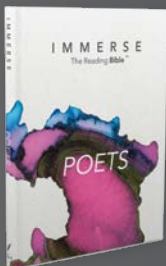
God's Word meets you wherever you are. You could be suffering, rejoicing, struggling, being bullied, or celebrating recovery. Wherever you are, God's Word will meet you there.

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

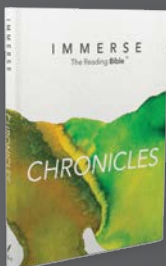
We look forward to partnering with you.



The *Immerse: Prophets* reading plan will be available soon.



The *Immerse: Poets* reading plan will be available soon.



The *Immerse: Chronicles* reading plan will be available soon.

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