

# I M M E R S E

The **Bible** Reading Experience™

## Pastor's Guide

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# Welcome to Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience

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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 Pastor's Guide will give you a better understanding of the materials included with Immerse and walk you through some of the best practices for how to implement the program in your church.

We're here to help with any questions you might have. Our Frequently Asked Questions page can be found at [ImmerseBible.com/FAQ](http://ImmerseBible.com/FAQ). If you don't find what you need there, give Sergey a call at (630) 784-5147 or send an email to [sergeykulik@tyndale.com](mailto:sergeykulik@tyndale.com). He is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 4:30 Central Time. We are praying that your church has a rich and blessed experience diving into God's Word together.

Sincerely,



# The Vision for Immerse

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Immerse isn't designed to be a one-off program. Instead, it's meant to give your church a framework for regular community immersion in the Scriptures. By reading together twice a year, your church can read through all six volumes—the entire Bible—in three years.

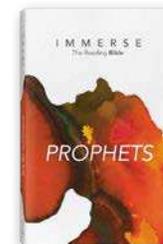
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## Year 1



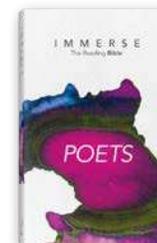
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## Year 2



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## Year 3



# Features of *Immerse: The Reading Bible*

## Natural Structure

The natural literary structures of each book are displayed by appropriate layout, simple line spacing, and graphic markers.

## Maximized Readability

Line length, line height, font size, and spacing have all been thoughtfully crafted for an optimal reading experience.

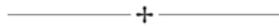
## Chapter and Verse Ranges

Displayed for quick orientation to the Bible text that falls on each page

## Refreshing Reading Experience

Designed to be enjoyed like the bestseller it is.

# 1 CORINTHIANS



This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Sosthenes.

I am writing to God's church in Corinth, to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

+ + + Alerts you to the book's significant structural transitions



I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. Through him, God has enriched your church in every way—with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge. This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true. Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

+ Alerts you to important thematic turning points



I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow our Lord Jesus Christ."

Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, for now no one can say they were baptized in my name. (Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don't remember baptizing anyone else.) For Christ didn't send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. As the Scriptures say,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise  
and discard the intelligence of the intelligent."

So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

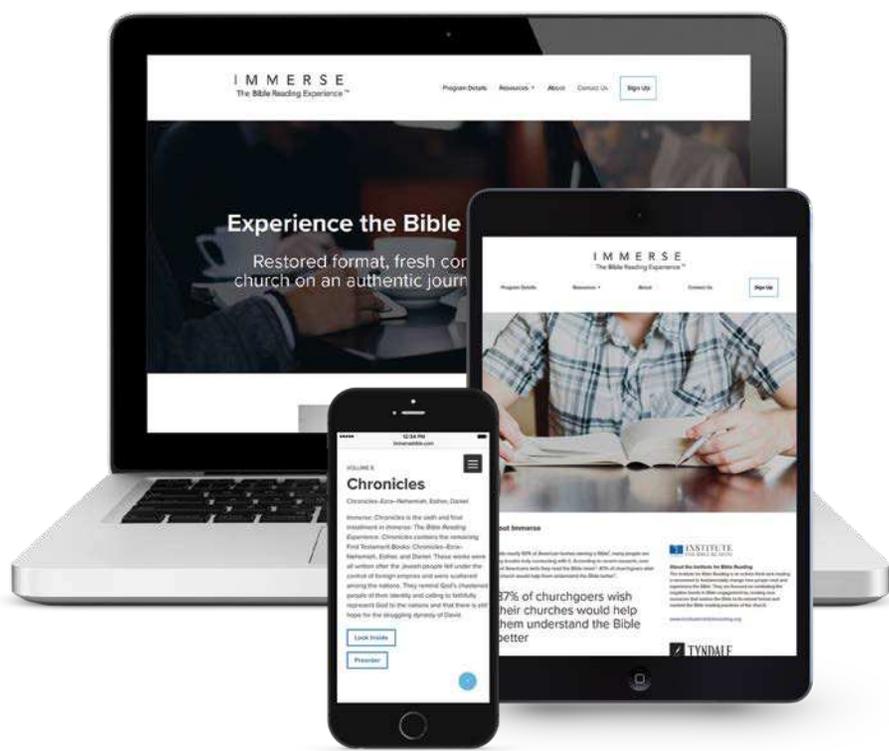
Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD."

When I first came to you, dear brothers and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than

## Support Tools to Enhance Your Immerse Experience

The Immerse experience involves far more than just reading a series of books. Various support components have been developed to enhance your community reading experience. These resources are included at no additional charge. And as resources are updated or added, your church will be given immediate access to them, allowing you to provide the most up-to-date tools and information to your community.



## Current Resources Available Online at ImmerseBible.com

- 1 Custom Audio Bible**  
Full audio recording that follows the natural literary breaks found in *Immerse: The Reading Bible*.
- 2 Weekly Videos**  
A 2-3 minute “trailer” highlighting what to expect and look for in the following week’s reading.
- 3 Pastor’s Guide**  
Guide to help pastors implement Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience in their church.
- 4 Group Host Guide**  
Guide for facilitating discussion during weekly group meetings.
- 5 Family Guide**  
Abridged reading for kids with custom discussion questions so your whole family can participate in Immerse.
- 6 Quick Start Guide**  
Guide for participants, delivered as a bookmark within each book (also downloadable). One side gives the reading plan and helpful discussion starters; the opposite side provides other excellent tips for getting the most out of your reading experience.
- 7 Graphic Kit**  
For use in church programs, PowerPoint slides, etc.

### eBook Version

Available for purchase for Nook, Kindle, iPad, etc.

## Planning Checklist

### Before Immerse

- 8-12+ Weeks Out: Involve your entire church staff and key leaders in the initial planning for Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience.
- 8-10 Weeks Out: Designate a “point person,” whether yourself or another staff member, that will be the main communicator between your church and Tyndale. Whether for placing orders or sending us questions, it’s much simpler than having multiple points of contact within one church.
- 4-6 Weeks Out: Begin promoting Immerse to your congregation each Sunday. You can download promotional materials including a Graphics Kit at [ImmerseBible.com](http://ImmerseBible.com).
- 4-6 Weeks Out: Lead a training session with all of your group hosts and explain the unmediated nature of Immerse. Reiterate that as group hosts their main role is to *facilitate* conversation. Be sure to have the Group Host’s Guide available (included with Immerse Resources).
- 4 Weeks Out: Order the appropriate number of copies of *Immerse: The Reading Bible* for your church.
- 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.
- 1-2 Weeks Out: Distribute copies of *Immerse: The Reading Bible* to your congregation. Each copy will include an insert that contains a participant Quick Start Guide, reading plan, discussion questions, and URL for additional resources.

### During Immerse

- Check in with your group hosts occasionally to 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.
- 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.

### After Immerse

- Send feedback about your experience to [sergeykulik@tyndale.com](mailto:sergeykulik@tyndale.com) or call Sergey at (630)784-5147. We’d love to hear about any suggestions, questions, or problems.
- Encourage your congregation to keep immersing themselves in the Bible outside of whole-church campaigns. Keep reading whole books and talking about them together.
- If you had a great experience, tell other pastors about it!
- Begin planning your church’s next Immerse experience.

## Share Your Immerse Stories

### Visit [ImmerseBible.com](http://ImmerseBible.com)/ShareYourStory

Immerse is part of a larger movement to help churches everywhere deeply engage with God’s Word on an ongoing basis. We welcome you to share your church’s Immerse experience with the larger Immerse community so we can celebrate together and be drawn closer together as the Church.

## Best Practices

### 5 key ways 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.

*"The people's response to my appeal was, 'You know what, he really believes in this. He can't wait to get started'"*

—Jim Cymbala, LEAD PASTOR, THE BROOKLYN TABERNACLE

- 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 **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.

*"Immerse isn't just building up churches, it's also building up families"* —Michelle Sanchez, EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES, EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

- 4 **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.

- 5 **Keep it simple!** The evidence is overwhelming that simply reading the Bible as presented in *Immerse: The Reading Bible* and then discussing it in community has a powerful impact. The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God as people engage in reading the entire Bible. Even people who have read through the Bible multiple times are saying that reading Immerse is like reading it for the first time. So keep things simple and allow your church to enjoy the Bible as it was intended to be read—uncluttered and in community.

# Immerse: Messiah Reading Plan

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## Week 1

### Luke

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

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## 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

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## 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

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## Week 4

### Romans, Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, 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

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## Week 5

### Mark, 1 & 2 Peter, Jude

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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

# Immerse: Beginnings Reading Plan

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

# Immerse: Kingdoms Reading Plan

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

# Immerse: Prophets Reading Plan

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## Week 1

### Amos, Hosea, Micah

Day 1 pp. A9-6  
Day 2 pp. 6-17  
Day 3 pp. 19-32  
Day 4 pp. 32-39  
Day 5 pp. 41-54

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## Week 2

### Isaiah

Day 6 pp. 55-67  
Day 7 pp. 67-78  
Day 8 pp. 78-89  
Day 9 pp. 89-101  
Day 10 pp. 101-113

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## Week 3

### Isaiah

Day 11 pp. 114-123  
Day 12 pp. 123-135  
Day 13 pp. 135-148  
Day 14 pp. 148-162  
Day 15 pp. 162-175

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## Week 4

### Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah

Day 16 pp. 177-191  
Day 17 pp. 193-200  
Day 18 pp. 201-215  
Day 19 pp. 215-228  
Day 20 pp. 228-242

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## Week 5

### Jeremiah

Day 21 pp. 242-254  
Day 22 pp. 254-268  
Day 23 pp. 268-284  
Day 24 pp. 284-297  
Day 25 pp. 297-310

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## Week 6

### Obadiah, Ezekiel

Day 26 pp. 311-315  
Day 27 pp. 317-327  
Day 28 pp. 327-336  
Day 29 pp. 336-346  
Day 30 pp. 346-355

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## Week 7

### Ezekiel

Day 31 pp. 355-364  
Day 32 pp. 364-371  
Day 33 pp. 371-378  
Day 34 pp. 378-388  
Day 35 pp. 388-396

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## Week 8

### Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Joel, Jonah

Day 36 pp. 397-401  
Day 37 pp. 403-419  
Day 38 pp. 421-427  
Day 39 pp. 429-438  
Day 40 pp. 439-444

# Immerse: Poets Reading Plan

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## **Week 1**      **Psalms (Book One)**

Day 1      pp. A9-7  
Day 2      pp. 7-15  
Day 3      pp. 15-25  
Day 4      pp. 25-35  
Day 5      pp. 35-44

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## **Week 2**      **Lamentations, Psalms (Book Two)**

Day 6      pp. 165-173  
Day 7      pp. 173-180  
Day 8      pp. 45-55  
Day 9      pp. 55-66  
Day 10     pp. 67-77

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## **Week 3**      **Song of Songs, Psalms (Book Three)**

Day 11     pp. 181-187  
Day 12     pp. 187-194  
Day 13     pp. 78-83  
Day 14     pp. 83-92  
Day 15     pp. 92-99

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## **Week 4**      **Proverbs**

Day 16     pp. 195-202  
Day 17     pp. 202-211  
Day 18     pp. 211-218  
Day 19     pp. 219-225  
Day 20     pp. 226-233

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## **Week 5**      **Proverbs, Psalms (Book Four)**

Day 21     pp. 233-243  
Day 22     pp. 243-250  
Day 23     pp. 100-106  
Day 24     pp. 106-114  
Day 25     pp. 114-119

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## **Week 6**      **Ecclesiastes, Psalms (Book Five)**

Day 26     pp. 251-258  
Day 27     pp. 258-265  
Day 28     pp. 120-130  
Day 29     pp. 130-141  
Day 30     pp. 141-148

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## **Week 7**      **Psalms (Book Five), Job**

Day 31     pp. 148-155  
Day 32     pp. 155-163  
Day 33     pp. 267-272  
Day 34     pp. 272-282  
Day 35     pp. 282-289

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## **Week 8**      **Job**

Day 36     pp. 289-295  
Day 37     pp. 295-302  
Day 38     pp. 302-310  
Day 39     pp. 310-319  
Day 40     pp. 319-327

# Immerse: Chronicles Reading Plan

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## **Week 1**      **Chronicles–Ezra–Nehemiah**

Day 1      pp. A9-2  
Day 2      pp. 3-7  
Day 3      pp. 7-12  
Day 4      pp. 12-15  
Day 5      pp. 15-20

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## **Week 2**      **Chronicles–Ezra–Nehemiah**

Day 6      pp. 20-25  
Day 7      pp. 25-29  
Day 8      pp. 29-33  
Day 9      pp. 33-39  
Day 10     pp. 39-43

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## **Week 3**      **Chronicles–Ezra–Nehemiah**

Day 11     pp. 43-49  
Day 12     pp. 49-55  
Day 13     pp. 55-60  
Day 14     pp. 60-62  
Day 15     pp. 63-67

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## **Week 4**      **Chronicles–Ezra–Nehemiah**

Day 16     pp. 67-70  
Day 17     pp. 70-76  
Day 18     pp. 76-80  
Day 19     pp. 80-85  
Day 20     pp. 85-90

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## **Week 5**      **Chronicles–Ezra–Nehemiah**

Day 21     pp. 90-95  
Day 22     pp. 95-101  
Day 23     pp. 101-107  
Day 24     pp. 107-111  
Day 25     pp. 111-115

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## **Week 6**      **Chronicles–Ezra–Nehemiah**

Day 26     pp. 115-120  
Day 27     pp. 120-125  
Day 28     pp. 125-130  
Day 29     pp. 130-136  
Day 30     pp. 136-141

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## **Week 7**      **Esther, Daniel**

Day 31     pp. 143-148  
Day 32     pp. 148-151  
Day 33     pp. 151-155  
Day 34     pp. 157-158  
Day 35     pp. 159-163

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## **Week 8**      **Daniel**

Day 36     pp. 163-164  
Day 37     pp. 165-167  
Day 38     pp. 168-171  
Day 39     pp. 171-177  
Day 40     pp. 177-181