

IMMERSE *for Schools*

The Bible Reading Experience™

Teacher's Guide

Contents

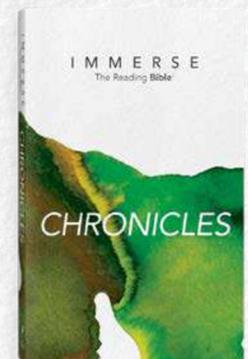
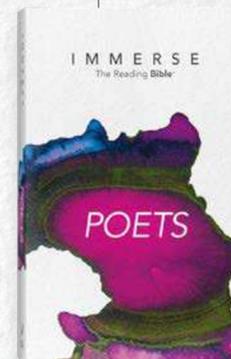
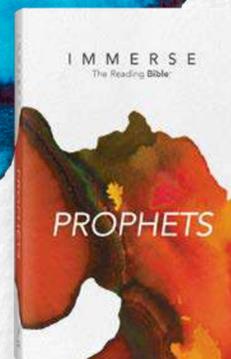
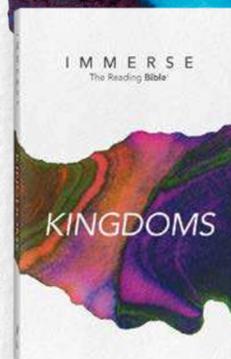
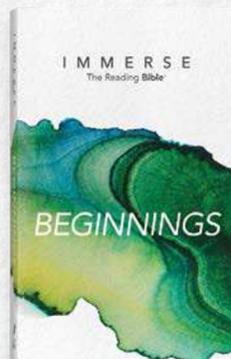
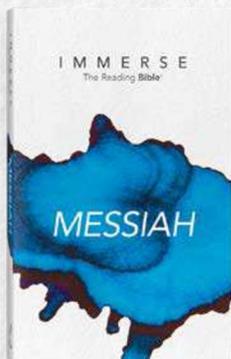
Welcome to the Immerse for Schools Experience

How Immerse Works

Features of *Immerse: The Reading Bible*

Online Resources

Teaching and Classroom Best Practices



Welcome to Immerse for Schools

Dear Teacher,

We're so glad you're here! You've taken an important step toward reorienting your Bible classroom around what truly matters—reading and engaging with Scripture together.

If you've ever felt like your students hear more *about* the Bible and don't actually spend much time *reading* it, you're not alone. Immerse for Schools is designed to help you change that. With a thoughtfully designed, distraction-free Reader Bible, alongside guided journaling and open-ended discussions, your students will have the opportunity to experience the Bible as it was meant to be read—in community. Plus, our website provides you with a wealth of resources to support you every step of the way, from reading plans to discussion guides and instructional tools.

Immerse removes the usual barriers to deep engagement: no chapter or verse numbers, no section headings, and no footnotes. Instead, students are invited to read freely, reflect deeply, and discuss openly. Rather than focusing on finding the “right answers,” your students will be encouraged to explore Scripture with curiosity, ask big questions, and celebrate moments of discovery together.

You can choose the volume that best fits your class and whether you'd like to follow an 8-week or 16-week format. However you use Immerse, our goal is to support you in helping students encounter the life-changing power of God's Word.

We're excited for you and your students to begin this journey. May your time in Scripture be rich, meaningful, and transformative!

Sincerely,



Scope and Sequence options

Every school is unique, and Immerse for Schools can be adapted to fit your schedule, goals, and the specific needs of your students and curriculum. With a flexible scope and sequence, including two different reading plans, Immerse provides a structured framework for regular engagement with Scripture, no matter which option you choose.

Different Reading Plans - Each volume includes both an 8-week and a 16-week reading plan, allowing flexibility in how you structure your course. The 16-week plan enables students to read through one volume at a slower pace over a semester, while the 8-week plan allows for completing two volumes in the same timeframe or leaving space for projects and deeper study. The curriculum available on the website is designed to support both pacing options, making it easy to adapt to your classroom needs.

Different Volumes - Depending on your schedule and goals, your classes can read through one volume or multiple volumes. Some schools choose to work through all six volumes over several years. For example, one school reads Messiah in 7th and 8th grade, then covers Beginnings, Kingdoms, Prophets, Poets, and Chronicles from 9th to 12th grade. This flexible approach allows schools to tailor the reading plan to their students' needs while ensuring a comprehensive journey through Scripture.

This balance of structure and flexibility means you do not have to start from scratch, but you also are not locked into a rigid plan. Whether integrating Immerse into an existing Bible course or adopting this new approach, you can confidently guide students through Scripture in a way that fosters deeper understanding and engagement.

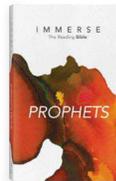
Biblical books in each volume



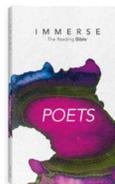
Immerse: Beginnings includes the first five books of the Bible, known as the Torah (meaning “instruction”).



Immerse: Kingdoms tells the story of Israel from the time of its conquest of Canaan (Joshua) through its struggle to settle the land (Judges, Ruth) and the establishment of Israel’s kingdom, which ends in a forced exile (Samuel-Kings).



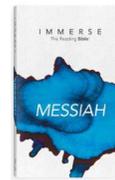
Immerse: Prophets presents the prophets in groupings that generally represent four historical periods: before the fall of Israel’s northern kingdom, before the fall of the southern kingdom, around the time of Jerusalem’s destruction, and after the return from exile.



Immerse: Poets presents the poetical books in two sections, dividing them between song books (Psalms, Lamentations, Song of Songs) and wisdom writings (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job).



Immerse: Chronicles contains the remaining books: Chronicles-Ezra-Nehemiah, Esther, and Daniel.



Immerse: Messiah provides a unique guided journey through the entire New Testament. Each section is anchored by one of the Gospels, highlighting the richness of Scripture’s fourfold witness to Jesus the Messiah.

Features of each volume

Presents the entire *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation - a translation of the Scriptures designed to bring readers immediate clarity and a heart-language connection to God’s word.

Lays out the entire Bible in a friendly single-column format with easy-to-read type.

Presents each book of the Bible without the distractions of chapter and verse numbers, subject headers, or footnotes – all later historical additions to the text.

Provides subtle literary markers to pull forward the original structures of the books, helping readers to experience and progressively discover each book’s flow as originally intended.

Sets different kinds of literature – poems, songs, stories, letters, genealogies, lists – in ways that help readers recognize them, facilitating more immediate understanding.

Offers excellent book and section introductions that provide the historical and literary information necessary to accurately understand each inspired work on its own terms.

Arranges the Bible books in ways that offer readers additional context, grouping books together that share similar ancient origins, contexts, and audiences.

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.

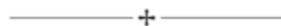
Chapter and Verse Ranges

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 only 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

Immerse Rhythms in the Classroom

The course begins with an introduction to the Immerse Reader Bible and the rhythms of the class. Immerse for Schools follows a rhythm of **prayer • teaching • reading in community • journaling • discussion • assessment**. These rhythms help students develop essential skills: listening to Scripture and one another, understanding Scripture, retelling its stories and teachings, cultivating curiosity and open-mindedness, critical thinking, and reading for transformation. These skills not only help students engage deeply in the classroom, but also equip them to continue on the path of discipleship long after the course ends.

Prayer

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing” (unknown). No method, teaching, or curriculum will produce the fruit of the Spirit or Christlikeness. We need God and we need to remind our students of the necessity of prayer to read and respond to Scripture well. Model how to pray in a way that expresses dependence on God as you read, study, and obey Scripture.

Teaching

The teacher website provides a variety of resources to support your teaching, including prep materials, previews for each reading day, activities, and videos. We recommend dedicating at least 15 minutes or more of class time to teaching. This can take place before students read, after they read, or at both times, depending on what best supports your students’ engagement and understanding.

Reading in Community

Reading *in class* is encouraged so that students can engage with Scripture in community and benefit from teacher guidance. While most class days will include reading, some days may focus more on teaching or discussion, depending on the biblical text and students’ needs.

For younger grades, we recommend scaffolding their reading groups: begin with independent reading in the first week, add a reading and discussion partner in the second week, and then transition to groups of 3-4 as they become more comfortable.

Annotating is highly encouraged. It fosters slower reading, deeper engagement, and provides an easy reference point for discussion.

Spend the first few weeks modeling how to annotate while reading Scripture. There is no single right way to do this, but by observing your example, students can learn different approaches and develop a system that works for them.

Journaling

We provide a physical journal because handwriting helps students slow down, process, and internalize what they’re reading. Journaling also allows them to track their growth and observations over time, making it a valuable tool for both personal reflection and class discussions. Consider using class time to model how you would journal, giving students a concrete example of what thoughtful engagement might look like.

Discussion

Discussion is a key part of how students process their learning. Building a classroom culture where students feel safe to ask honest questions and think openly takes time, but it is essential for meaningful engagement with Scripture. As students read and journal, discussion naturally becomes a space for them to reflect, wrestle with ideas, and share insights.

To support this process, suggested discussion questions are available on the teacher website as needed. When students engage with the teaching, reading, and journaling, they come to discussions well-prepared to contribute. Depending on the assigned reading and class dynamics, discussions can range from 10 to 45 minutes.

Assessment

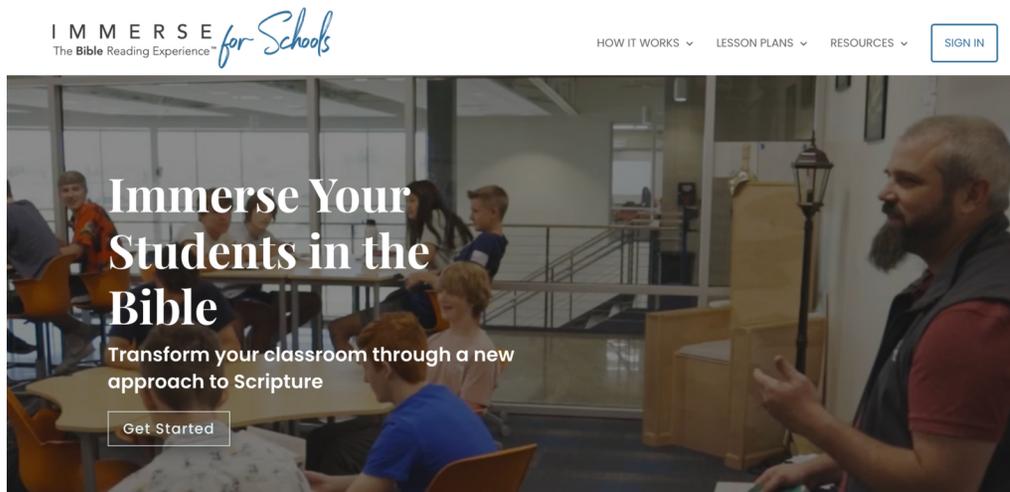
There are many ways to assess students’ understanding and growth in class. The Assessments page on the website provides a variety of suggested assessments, and the Activities page includes additional assessment opportunities at the end of most activities.

Students can be assessed through traditional quizzes and tests, but remember—while Immerse values correct answers, that is not the ultimate goal. More than just growing in knowledge, students should develop curiosity, a love for reading Scripture, and, ultimately, a deeper love for Jesus that leads to joyful obedience and Christlikeness.

Bible annotation, journaling, discussion, and personal reflections can also serve as meaningful components of assessment.

Support Tools to Enhance Your Classroom Experience

The Immerse experience involves far more than just reading a series of books. A range of support resources has been developed to enrich your teaching and classroom engagement, including discussion prompts, multimedia tools, and structured reading plans. These materials are designed to foster deeper understanding and meaningful conversations. As new resources are added or updated, you will have immediate access to the latest tools and information, ensuring your students benefit from the most current and effective support available.



Resources on the Immerse for Schools website

- 1 Immerse Audio Bible and Videos**
Full audio recording that follows the natural literary breaks found in *Immerse: The Reading Bible*. A 2-3 minute “trailer” highlighting what to expect and look for in the following week’s reading.
- 2 Reading Preview**
Each day’s reading includes a brief preview of the content. In some cases, this includes a disclaimer to alert readers to graphic material.
- 3 Discussion Prompts**
Every reading selection is accompanied by discussion prompts that can be used for group or class-wide discussions.
- 4 Additional Media**
We have linked Bible Project videos and other relevant media that align with the Reading Plans for each volume. These resources can help with preparation or be used during class.
- 5 Quick Start Guide**
The guide included in the Bibles is designed for churches. However, the website provides downloadable student guides that include 8- or 16-week reading plans along with journaling and discussion questions.
- 6 Activities, Assessments, and Prep Materials**
Each Immerse volume includes suggested activities and assessments, along with recommended materials to help you prepare for the semester or reference throughout the semester.

Best Practices

Integrating the Immerse Bible Reading Experience into a high school classroom offers a transformative approach to engaging students with Scripture. For a teacher new to this method, consider the following best practices:

Understand the Immerse Approach

Immerse is designed to facilitate a fresh encounter with the Bible, presenting it in a reader-friendly format without chapters, verses, or section headings. This approach encourages reading Scripture as a continuous narrative, fostering deeper comprehension and connection. Familiarize yourself with this format to guide your students effectively.

Find Your Pace

Immerse offers flexible 8 or 16-week plans, requiring approximately 15-20 minutes of reading per day. Choose a pace that suits your students' needs and your academic calendar. Make time for journaling, discussion, and longer teaching times.

Facilitate Open and Reflective Discussions

Transition from solely lecture-based teaching to facilitating open, book club-style discussions. Encourage students to share observations, questions, and insights from their readings. Utilize the questions from the journal and the discussion prompts from the website. Model what it looks like to ask good questions and share observations.

Encourage Bible Annotation

Promote active reading by having students annotate their Immerse Bibles. This practice aids in processing and internalizing Scripture, tracking personal growth, and preparing for discussions. Handwriting notes can also enhance retention and reflection.

Journaling

Encourage students to build the habit of engaging the Bible through journaling. Students can write down observations, process their

thoughts and questions, and even illustrate what they're reading. The dotted-lined grid was purposefully included for both writing and drawing.

Utilize Available Resources

Leverage the many resources provided by Immerse for Schools website. These tools offer valuable support for both teaching and facilitating discussions and will help enrich your classroom experience.

Assess Holistically

While traditional quizzes and tests can evaluate comprehension, also consider assessing students' engagement through their annotations, journal entries, and participation in discussions. This holistic approach reflects both their understanding and personal growth in their faith journey.

Model What You Describe

Students learn best when they see concepts in action. Whether it is prayer, annotation, or engaging with Scripture, your example helps set the tone for their learning. You do not need to model these practices perfectly—just authentically. Show them what it looks like to approach Scripture with curiosity, humility, and dependence on God. By consistently demonstrating these habits, you invite students to develop a similar approach and grow in their faith.

Foster a Supportive Community

Cultivate a classroom environment where students feel safe to express their thoughts and questions. Building trust encourages honest dialogue and deeper exploration of Scripture, enhancing the collective learning experience.

Starting with these practices, you can effectively integrate the Immerse Bible Reading Experience into your classroom, guiding students toward a meaningful and transformative engagement with God's Word.