

Church Guide Playbook: Small Groups

Bible Journey makes an incredible small group curriculum, whether you're journeying through the entire Bible together or diving into just one book. Either way, we have some helpful recommendations to help your small group get the most of their Bible Journey experience.

1. Sign up your group.

For those who have purchased a group subscription for Bible Journey, we'll provide coupon codes for your small group that will be automatically applied when users click to sign up through their invitation emails. Your Church User Guide outlines details on this process for both administrators and church members.

Remember that each small group member working through the curriculum should have their own account. Each code provided is good for only one account (one email address per account). If family members sign up for separate accounts, they will be charged for them separately. Allow a week or two before the study begins for members to sign up and familiarize themselves with the curriculum.

2. Get ready for your Bible Journey.

We recommend all new users to Bible Journey begin with our Journey Prep mini-courses to familiarize themselves with our content and platform. These prep courses can be accessed at any time at the top of the Bible Journey dashboard, under "Before you Begin: Journey Prep." You may wish to spend a week on these mini-courses with your group before diving into your studies.

For small-group leaders, the following guides will provide additional resources and insight on structuring and leading your group so you can have an impactful study:

- [How to Get Started with Bible Journey for Small Groups](#)
- [How to Customize Bible Journey for your Group](#)

A full leader's guide is in development. If you'd like access to an early copy, please contact us at hello@biblejourney.com.

3. Find the best way to use Bible Journey within your small group.

Small groups can have a variety of purposes, from community to discipleship, deep study to connection for new members. Depending on your group, you may choose to customize Bible Journey in a number of ways.

- **If your group meets for a specified amount of time:** Choose a specific book or study to dive into, depending on how long your group meets. Many groups prefer to work through 1-2 lessons each week. Each Bible Journey course typically covers one book of the Bible and includes 7-8 lessons. Each study contains 6-8 courses. Depending on how long your group will be meeting, you may choose to dive into just one (or a few) courses and have a more in-depth study than attempting to rush through large portions of the curriculum.
- **If you have a long-term small group:** If your small group meets together indefinitely, consider working through the entire Bible Journey curriculum together, start to finish. Many small groups never take the opportunity to study through—or even read through!—the entire Bible together in some sequential or organized way, which is a huge loss. Many people who have worked through Bible Journey entirely with a group report to us that Bible Journey strengthened their faith and personal study in ways they could have never expected. A full study of the Bible Journey curriculum typically takes 1-2 years, depending on your group's pace.
- **If you're leading a discipleship group:** Bible Journey's complete curriculum gives group leaders the opportunity to focus less time on preparing lessons and more time on actual discipleship and mentoring. Bible Journey's curriculum can provide the structure and resources for a long-term discipleship group, or a shorter, more intensive group. Either way, you can use Bible Journey to provide ministry training and discipleship through rich theological study and seminary-led courses.
- **Use Bible Journey to introduce new Christians to the depth of Scripture.** New Christians who are interested in learning more about Scripture can benefit from Bible Journey's deep dive into the Scriptures, their historical context and their impact on Christians around the world and across history. Small groups leading new Christians deeper into their faith may want to begin with our *Gospels* study, as it dives into the Life, Ministry & Teachings of Jesus, as well as each of the four Gospels.
- **Offer a Bible Journey small group for Christians wanting to dive deeper into Scripture.** Many Bible Journey students report back that the Bible Journey studies completely changed the way they studied and understood Scripture—that they'd never studied the Bible like this before! The lectures, onsite videos, readings, exercises and *In the Text*, *Behind the Text*, and *In Front of the Text* sections introduce students to context, historical and geographical background and more that often isn't studied. As a result, Bible Journey is a great opportunity for Christians who are wanting to dive deeper into their faith to do so in community.

- **Provide Bible Journey as a resource to small groups to supplement sermon series.** If your church's small groups regularly meet to discuss the sermon or related topics, Bible Journey can provide a structured and theologically-rich curriculum that gives small groups ample resources to build your church's sermons and foster deep discussions. For example, if your upcoming sermon series is on Romans, your small groups may want to slowly work through the correlating Bible Journey course on Romans. Or, they may want to take a deep dive into Romans with the sermon series, and take a broader look at Romans and Paul's other epistles with our *Acts & the Epistles* study.

4. Support.

Your small group members should reach out to a group leader or church administrator for support needs as they work through the curriculum. Group leaders or administrators can reach out to Bible Journey directly for any technical or other support.