

Church Guide Playbook: Summer

Getting ready to dive into the Bible Journey curriculum with your church over the summer? Here's our recommendations for getting started with an impactful study.

1. Sign up your group.

If you've purchased a group subscription through Bible Journey, we'll provide coupon codes for your community that will automatically be applied when congregants click to sign up from their invitation emails. The Church User Guide for Administrators provides additional details on the signup process, as well as step-by-step instructions you can provide to your church.

Remember that each member working through the curriculum should have their own account. However, 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 for members to get signed up and familiarize themselves with the curriculum. You may also want to designate a member of your staff or church leadership team as the point person for the study, or for sign-up troubleshooting and questions, during this time.

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."

For leaders, we recommend reading through the following guides to using and customizing Bible Journey for groups to get the most out of your Bible Journey study:

- [Using Bible Journey with Churches](#)
- [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. Customize Bible Journey for a summer study.

For summer studies, Bible Journey can be customized in a number of ways. We recommend the following:

- **Take a deep dive into a single Study.** The Bible Journey curriculum consists of six shorter studies. While we recommend beginning with the Pentateuch and working sequentially through the entire curriculum, the studies can also be done on their own to fit shorter time periods. Summer is the perfect time to dive into a single Bible Journey study—say, *The Gospels* or the *History and Poetry* study—and immerse your church in a particular section of the Scriptures. The studies, if done at a pace of 2-3 lessons per week, can fit into a 16-week summer study.
- **Use a summer study as an opportunity to give people a taste of Bible Journey.** Bible Journey’s curriculum is a deep and rich study that demands careful study over an extended period of time. Using Bible Journey over the summer with your church—perhaps just working through a single book of the Bible, course, or study—is a great way to introduce your church to Bible Journey’s curriculum. For those who are interested in further study, a longer small group or discipleship group can be formed to work through the entire curriculum.
- **Focus on a single book of the Bible.** Summer is a great time to take a deep dive into a single book of the Bible with Bible Journey. Most Bible Journey courses cover one book (or 2-3 shorter epistles) and can be completed in 6-8 weeks at the rate of one lesson per week. If you want to extend a single-book study for a longer summer session, it’s easy to supplement Bible Journey’s curriculum with resources that are relevant to your church and congregation, such as additional readings, videos, podcasts, sermons and so on.
- **Offer Bible Journey as a summer discipleship program.** Summer is a unique season, with many church members away more frequently visiting family, on summer vacations, or home from college. Accordingly, many churches and ministries may take a hiatus during summer months. Bible Journey is an easy, no-prep curriculum that is perfect for groups still wanting to meet over the summer, or perhaps for a small discipleship group that meets only for the summer. A summer intensive group could work through a study (or more) during the summer, while a more casual group could work through a course or two.
- **Dive into the Bible Journey courses that correlate with your summer sermon series.** If your church is diving into a particular book of the Bible or a specific topic during your summer sermon series, Bible Journey can be a great resource to pair alongside it. Offer Bible Journey as a weekly devotional series, a Sunday school curriculum, a small group curriculum to pair with sermon discussions, or via another avenue. The Bible Journey courses will take your church *In the Text*, *Behind the Text* and *In Front of the Text*, providing helpful context and background and additional resources for your summer series.

4. Support.

As church members sign up and work through the Bible Journey curriculum, it's a good idea to have someone on staff as a go-to resource for further questions, resources or technical help. Your church administrator can always reach out to the Bible Journey team with questions or concerns as well.