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*Grow* is a simple Bible reading plan to follow that can encourage you to dive into Scripture. *Grow* might come as your next step after participating in Alpha and/or Rooted. It is designed for you to experience Scripture with other people. That might look like inviting a friend or two to do this with, or something you'd like to do together in your small group. It is exciting to begin to think about reading the Bible with others to learn and understand more of who God is and how to apply Scripture to your daily life.

Why do you think it might be important to read Scripture in community with others? What's the benefit of doing this with people? Well in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 the author, Paul, tells us that "all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work". Following what God tells us in Scripture might mean we have to evaluate ourselves and parts of the way we live. We can anticipate God changing us! And when we do this openly and transparently with other people, we find encouragement and support along the way. Every one of us will find that God continues to gracefully show us where we can grow to be more like Him as we willingly replace our thoughts with His thoughts, our ways with His ways. This takes trust. This is obedience.

According to a nationwide survey called *Reveal*, where more than 400,000 church goers were polled, out of all the spiritual practices, Scripture reflection is one of the most significant practices a person can have in their life to help them grow in their love for God and others. Referencing the *Reveal* survey in their book *Move*, Cally Parkinson and Greg Hawkins wrote, "For those who would say they are Christ-centered or working to stay close to Christ, Scripture reflection is twice as catalytic as any other factor. This means it has twice the power of any other spiritual practice to accelerate growth in spiritually mature people." At COMMUNITY, we are so excited for you to see the evidence in your life of growing in your love for God and others.

What follows is a plan to get you started. We want God to shape our hearts, souls and minds with what he says. And along the way, the Holy Spirit will transform us and likely challenge our current way of thinking, setting our compass in life to be dialed into God, our true north.

***Let the adventure begin!***



# Let's Get Started

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The Bible is divided into two groups of books, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Either is a good place to start, so we have designed *Grow* to begin with the New Testament. This plan can be easily adapted if you chose to continue *Grow* by reading the Old Testament. The New Testament jumps right into the person of Jesus and the teaching and actions of Jesus' life. The reading plan provided will cover 52 weeks (1 year), but if your group is not able to meet all 52 weeks, that is OK! The goal is to keep reading even on the weeks you don't meet. The books in the reading plan are ordered in an intentional way. Look for the cues at the beginning of each book you read to understand the author, context and audience of that book.

## Before you Begin

- Identify the people that are going to read the Bible with you.
- Commit to each other to read the New Testament in one year.
- Find a time that you can meet regularly and consistently. (i.e. Tuesdays from 7 - 8:30 pm)
- Get a Bible. Two suggestions would be a study Bible with helpful notes and a translation that is easy to understand yet is close to the original translation of scripture. NIV (New International Version) or NLT (New Living Translation) are good ones to consider.
- Another option would be to purchase *The Books of the Bible - New Testament* from Zondervan which offers a story-like experience by omitting the verse and chapter markings.
- Get a notebook or journal. You may find that you make some notes in your Bible as you go, but it will be helpful to have a separate notebook or journal to respond to the key questions and to keep track of what God is revealing to you!

## When you Meet

### 1. Talk

- What are you thankful for?
- What is causing you stress?
- Who needs our help? How can we help them?

### 2. Pray

The author of the book of James knew we could come and ask God for anything. James 1:5 says, "If you want wisdom, ask God and he'll give it to you." That sounds straightforward, doesn't it? Prayerfully asking God to guide you, help you understand and give you wisdom is a humble and healthy way to approach reading the Bible. Pray to grow!

### 3. Look back

- Retell what was read from the previous meeting.
- How did you do carrying out last week's "I WILL ..." statement?
- Who did you tell and what was the reaction?

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#### 4. Video

Before you begin reading a book of the Bible, watch the corresponding video from The Bible Project (visit bibleproject.com and click “watch” in the top menu). Videos are available for each book of the Bible, along with overview videos of the Old and New Testament.

#### 5. Discussion

Utilize the key questions below each time you meet. These will spark meaningful conversations.

*Did you know? There is a Bible reading movement happening around the world right now where people are gathering together using basic questions just like these. Lives are being changed. The Holy Spirit is transforming people to grow in their love for God and others! You are part of a movement!*

#### Key Questions

1. What was new or compelling to you?
2. What questions did you have?
3. What did you learn about loving God? Or What does this teach us about God, Jesus or His plan?
4. What did you learn about loving others? Or What does this teach us about humanity?
5. If this is true, is there something that needs to change in me?
6. What will I do about what I learned today? Use an “I will statement” as a starting off point.  
*“As a result of what I learned today, I will. . . .”*
7. Who can you share this with?

#### 5. Close in Prayer

Pray for those who have yet to find their way back to God.



# New Testament 52 Week Reading Plan

**Week 1**

- Luke 1
- Luke 2
- Luke 3
- Luke 4
- Luke 5

**Week 2**

- Luke 6
- Luke 7
- Luke 8
- Luke 9
- Luke 10

**Week 3**

- Luke 11
- Luke 12
- Luke 13
- Luke 14
- Luke 15

**Week 4**

- Luke 16
- Luke 17
- Luke 18
- Luke 19
- Luke 20

**Week 5**

- Luke 21
- Luke 22
- Luke 23
- Luke 24
- Acts 1

**Week 6**

- Acts 2
- Acts 3
- Acts 4
- Acts 5
- Acts 6

**Week 7**

- Acts 7
- Acts 8
- Acts 9
- Acts 10
- Acts 11

**Week 8**

- Acts 12
- Acts 13
- Acts 14
- Acts 15
- Acts 16

**Week 9**

- Acts 17
- Acts 18
- Acts 19
- Acts 20
- Acts 21

**Week 10**

- Acts 22
- Acts 23
- Acts 24
- Acts 25
- Acts 26

**Week 11**

- Acts 27
- Acts 28
- James 1
- James 2
- James 3

**Week 12**

- James 4
- James 5
- Galatians 1
- Galatians 2
- Galatians 3

**Week 13**

- Galatians 4
- Galatians 5
- Galatians 6
- 1 Corinthians 1
- 1 Corinthians 2

**Week 14**

- 1 Corinthians 3
- 1 Corinthians 4
- 1 Corinthians 5
- 1 Corinthians 6
- 1 Corinthians 7

**Week 15**

- 1 Corinthians 8
- 1 Corinthians 9
- 1 Corinthians 10
- 1 Corinthians 11
- 1 Corinthians 12

**Week 16**

- 1 Corinthians 13
- 1 Corinthians 14
- 1 Corinthians 15
- 1 Corinthians 16
- 2 Corinthians 1

**Week 17**

- 2 Corinthians 2
- 2 Corinthians 3
- 2 Corinthians 4
- 2 Corinthians 5
- 2 Corinthians 6

**Week 18**

- 2 Corinthians 7
- 2 Corinthians 8
- 2 Corinthians 9
- 2 Corinthians 10
- 2 Corinthians 11

**Week 19**

- 2 Corinthians 12
- 2 Corinthians 13
- 1 Thessalonians 1
- 1 Thessalonians 2
- 1 Thessalonians 3

**Week 20**

- 1 Thessalonians 4
- 1 Thessalonians 5
- 2 Thessalonians 1
- 2 Thessalonians 2
- 2 Thessalonians 3

**Week 21**

- Romans 1
- Romans 2
- Romans 3
- Romans 4
- Romans 5

**Week 22**

- Romans 6
- Romans 7
- Romans 8
- Romans 9

**Week 23**

- Romans 10
- Romans 11
- Romans 12
- Romans 13
- Romans 14

**Week 24**

- Romans 15
- Romans 16
- Philippians 1
- Philippians 2
- Philippians 3

**Week 25**

- Philippians 4
- Colossians 1
- Colossians 2
- Colossians 3
- Colossians 4

**Week 26**

- Philemon 1
- Ephesians 1
- Ephesians 2
- Ephesians 3
- Ephesians 4

**Week 27**

- Ephesians 5
- Ephesians 6
- 1 Timothy 1
- 1 Timothy 2
- 1 Timothy 3

**Week 28**

- 1 Timothy 4
- 1 Timothy 5
- 1 Timothy 6
- Titus 1
- Titus 2

**Week 29**

- Titus 3
- 2 Timothy 1
- 2 Timothy 2
- 2 Timothy 3
- 2 Timothy 4

**Week 30**

- Matthew 1
- Matthew 2
- Matthew 3
- Matthew 4
- Matthew 5

**Week 31**

- Matthew 6
- Matthew 7
- Matthew 8
- Matthew 9
- Matthew 10

**Week 32**

- Matthew 11
- Matthew 12
- Matthew 13
- Matthew 14
- Matthew 15

**Week 33**

- Matthew 16
- Matthew 17
- Matthew 18
- Matthew 19
- Matthew 20

**Week 34**

- Matthew 21
- Matthew 22
- Matthew 23
- Matthew 24
- Matthew 25

**Week 35**

- Matthew 26
- Matthew 27
- Matthew 28
- Mark 1
- Mark 2

**Week 36**

- Mark 3
- Mark 4
- Mark 5
- Mark 6
- Mark 7

**Week 37**

- Mark 8
- Mark 9
- Mark 10
- Mark 11
- Mark 12

**Week 38**

- Mark 13
- Mark 14
- Mark 15
- Mark 16
- Hebrews 1

**Week 39**

- Hebrews 2
- Hebrews 3
- Hebrews 4
- Hebrews 5
- Hebrews 6

**Week 40**

- Hebrews 7
- Hebrews 8
- Hebrews 9
- Hebrews 10
- Hebrews 11

**Week 41**

- Hebrews 12
- Hebrews 13
- 1 Peter 1
- 1 Peter 2
- 1 Peter 3

**Week 42**

- 1 Peter 4
- 1 Peter 5
- 2 Peter 1
- 2 Peter 2
- 2 Peter 3

**Week 43**

- Jude 1
- John 1
- John 2
- John 3
- John 4

**Week 44**

- John 5
- John 6
- John 7
- John 8
- John 9

**Week 45**

- John 10
- John 11
- John 12
- John 13
- John 14

**Week 46**

- John 15
- John 16
- John 17
- John 18
- John 19

**Week 47**

- John 20
- John 21
- 1 John 1
- 1 John 2
- 1 John 3

**Week 48**

- 1 John 4
- 1 John 5
- 2 John 1
- 3 John 1
- Revelation 1

**Week 49**

- Revelation 1
- Revelation 2
- Revelation 3
- Revelation 4
- Revelation 5

**Week 50**

- Revelation 6
- Revelation 7
- Revelation 8
- Revelation 9
- Revelation 10

**Week 51**

- Revelation 11
- Revelation 12
- Revelation 13
- Revelation 14
- Revelation 15-16

**Week 52**

- Revelation 17
- Revelation 18
- Revelation 19
- Revelation 20
- Revelation 21-22