

# Core Group Reading Schedule

As disciples of Jesus, we read and discuss the Bible and other books to better understand Jesus' ways and apply them in our everyday lives. Adjust the recommended schedules below depending on the needs of the group.

## Year 1 Lectio Divina Schedule

In Year 1 of Core Group, we meditate on selected Scripture passages using the method of [lectio divina](#) (click the link for an "Introduction to Lectio Divina"). In Years 2 and 3, we join the church's Bible reading plan in the Scripture & Prayer Group or make up our own. See the Lectio Divina Schedule below.

Session 1	Genesis 1:26-28	Session 9	Psalm 105:1-22	Session 17	Isaiah 25:1-9
Session 2	Psalm 8	Session 10	Psalm 105: 23-45	Session 18	Matthew 4:12-25
Session 3	Genesis 3:1-13	Session 11	Psalm 90	Session 19	Matthew 6:5-15
Session 4	Genesis 3:14-24	Session 12	1 Sam. 16:1-13	Session 20	Matthew 11:25-30
Session 5	Psalm 1	Session 13	Psalm 27	Session 21	Luke 22:24-34
Session 6	Genesis 11:1-9	Session 14	Psalm 2	Session 22	Mark 14:1-11
Session 7	Genesis 12:1-9	Session 15	Luke 1:26-38	Session 23	John 19:16-30
Session 8	Genesis 22:1-14	Session 16	Matthew 3:13-4:11	Session 24	John 20:11-18

**12 Discipleship Markers.** In Years 1-3 we read books that help us apply the 12 Discipleship Markers to our lives. In the summer before Year 1, Core Group Orientation sets the stage by teaching us what discipleship means: practicing the way of Jesus.

## Core Group Orientation (Summer before Year 1)

Practicing the Way	
Session 1	<i>Following Jesus</i>
Session 2	<i>Formation (Part 01)</i>
Session 3	<i>Formation (Part 02)</i>
Session 4	<i>The Practices</i>
Bonus: Sessions 5 - 8	<i>Meeting God in Pain &amp; Suffering; Healing from Sin; Crafting a Rule of Life; Life Together</i>

## Year 1

Books in Year 1 cover these four markers: Understanding the Biblical Story, Finding Identity in Christ, Being Led by the Spirit, and Building Habits of Grace.

<b>Understanding the Biblical Story</b>		
Session 1	<i>Drama of Scripture</i> by Bartholomew & Goheen, Prologue + Act 1 + Act 2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Practice</b></p> <p>Watch the "<a href="#">Intro to the Bible</a>" video series by The Bible Project. Then, in your own words, answer these questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How did the Bible come to be written?</li> <li>2. What are some examples of different genres of the Bible?</li> <li>3. In your own words, how do the Old and New testaments tell a unified story?</li> </ol>
Session 2	<i>Drama of Scripture</i> , Act 3	
Session 3	<i>Drama of Scripture</i> , Interlude	
Session 4	<i>Drama of Scripture</i> , Act 4	
Session 5	<i>Drama of Scripture</i> , Act 5	
Session 6	<i>Drama of Scripture</i> , Act 6	
<b>Find Identity in Christ</b>		
Session 7	<i>Abba's Child</i> by Brennan Manning, ch. 1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Practice</b></p> <p>Respond to these questions about your identity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is your most basic identity? Who and what are you at your core?</li> <li>2. When God looks at you, how does he view you? Who are you to Him?</li> </ol> <p>Start your day--the very first thing if possible--by confessing this truth: "Father, I confess that I am your beloved son/daughter. Because of Jesus, I belong to you. I love you. I will stand in your love and walk in it today."</p>
Session 8	<i>Abba's Child</i> , ch. 2-3	
Session 9	<i>Abba's Child</i> , ch. 4	
Session 10	<i>Abba's Child</i> , ch. 5-6	
Session 11	<i>Abba's Child</i> , ch. 7	
Session 12	<i>Abba's Child</i> , ch. 8-9	
<b>Being Led by the Spirit</b>		
Session 13	<i>Hearing God</i> by Dallas Willard, Ch. 1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Practice</b></p> <p>Practice <i>lectio divina</i> in Romans 8:5-16. (For a refresher, watch <a href="#">Introducing Lectio Divina</a> on 24-7 Prayer.)</p> <p>How is the Holy Spirit's presence in you different from the voice of the flesh and the devil? Make two lists, one that names how the Holy Spirit works and speaks to you, and one that names how Satan tries to tempt and discourage you.</p>
Session 14	<i>Hearing God</i> , Chapter 2-3	
Session 15	<i>Hearing God</i> , Chapter 4	
Session 16	<i>Hearing God</i> , Chapter 5-6	
Session 17	<i>Hearing God</i> , Chapter 7	
Session 18	<i>Hearing God</i> , Chapter 8-9	
<b>Building Habits of Grace</b>		
Session 19	<i>Sacred Rhythms</i> by Ruth Haley Barton, Intro + ch. 2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Practice</b></p> <p>Pick no more than 3 spiritual practices and make them a regular habit. Before you decide, you should be able to say why these particular</p>
Session 20	<i>Sacred Rhythms</i> , ch. 3-4	

Session 21	<i>Sacred Rhythms</i> , ch. 5-6	practices will help you receive God's love and love others.  Use the <a href="#">Rule of Life Builder</a> tool from Practicing the Way to help you craft a rule of life for yourself.
Session 22	<i>Sacred Rhythms</i> , ch. 7-8	
Session 23	<i>Sacred Rhythms</i> , ch. 9 - Appendix A	
Session 24	<i>Sacred Rhythms</i> , Appendix B - C	

**Year 1 Alternative Book Choices**

1. *God's Big Picture* by Vaughn Roberts; *Eat this Book* by Eugene Peterson
2. *Who am I?* by Jerry Bridges; *The Good and Beautiful You* by Smith; *Identity Theft* edited by Melissa Kruger
3. *Walking with God* by John Eldredge; *Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools* by Tyler Staton
4. *The Common Rule* by J. Earley; *The Good and Beautiful Life* by Smith; *God in My Everything* by Ken Shigematsu

**Year 2**

Books in Year 2 cover these 4 markers: Known & be Known, Pursue Reconciliation, Use Gifts to Serve, and Build Covenant Relationships.

<b>Knowing &amp; Being Known</b>		
Session 1	<i>Life Together</i> by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Introduction	<b>Practice</b> To be known and loved, we have to take the risk of being open and vulnerable. We should be careful who we entrust with the more intimate aspects of our mind and heart. Ask the Lord to help you, and then take the risk of going deeper with your core group by sharing something vulnerable about yourself, e.g., a longing or desire in your heart; a sin you need to confess; a burden you would like them to help you carry.
Session 2	<i>Life Together</i> , ch. 1	
Session 3	<i>Life Together</i> , ch. 2	
Session 4	<i>Life Together</i> , ch. 3	
Session 5	<i>Life Together</i> , ch. 4	
Session 6	<i>Life Together</i> , ch. 5	
<b>Pursue Reconciliation</b>		
Session 7	<i>Bold Love</i> by Dan Allender and Tremper Longman III, Introduction - ch. 2	<b>Practice</b> Read "How to Pray for Your Enemies." Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind anyone who feels like an enemy. Use the Lord's Prayer to love and bless this person in prayer.
Session 8	<i>Bold Love</i> , ch. 3-4	
Session 9	<i>Bold Love</i> , ch. 5-6	
Session 10	<i>Bold Love</i> , ch. 7-8	
Session 11	<i>Bold Love</i> , ch. 9-10	
Session 12	<i>Bold Love</i> , ch. 11 - Epilogue	
<b>Use Gifts to Serve</b>		
Session 13	<i>What You Do Best</i> by B. Bugbee, ch. 1-3	<b>Practice</b> Take a spiritual gifts test. Share your results with your core group, and ask them if they see these gifts in you and how.  Scripture exhorts us to pursue the Holy Spirit's gifts (1 Cor. 14:1). What is one new way you want the Spirit to work through you? Ask Him to give you this gift, and look for situations to pursue it.
Session 14	<i>What You Do Best</i> , ch. 4-6	
Session 15	<i>What You Do Best</i> , ch. 7-9	
Session 16	<i>What You Do Best</i> , ch. 10-12	
Session 17	<i>What You Do Best</i> , ch. 13-15	
Session 18	<i>What You Do Best</i> , 3 assessments	
<b>Build Covenant Relationships</b>		
Session 19	<i>When the Church Was a Family</i> by J. Hellerman, Introduction + ch. 1	<b>Practice</b> Review our church's membership covenant. Where are you succeeding? Where are you falling short? Ask the Lord to renew the commitments in your heart and life. Think of one act of service you can do to symbolize this renewal of your commitments, and do it, e.g., invite another church member out to lunch after church on Sunday; serve an extra day this month on a serving team at church.
Session 20	<i>When the Church Was a Family</i> , ch. 2-3	
Session 21	<i>When the Church Was a Family</i> , ch. 4-5	
Session 22	<i>When the Church Was a Family</i> , ch. 6-7	
Session 23	<i>When the Church Was a Family</i> , ch. 8-9	
Session 24	<i>When the Church Was a Family</i> , conclusion	

## Year 2 Alternative Book Choices

- *Messy Beautiful Friendship* by Christine Hoover
- *The Gospel Comes with a House Key* by Rosaria Butterfield
- *Why I Am Still Surprised by the Power of the Spirit* by Jack Deere; *Understanding Spiritual Gifts* by Sam Storms
- *A Place to Belong: Learning to Love the Local Church* by Megan Hill; *The Life of God in the Soul of the Church* by Thabiti Anyabwile; *The Good and Beautiful Community* by James Bryan Smith

**Year 3**

Books in Year 3 cover these four markers: Love & Truth in Context, Proclaim the Gospel, Do Justice & Mercy, and Create & Cultivate.

<b>Apply Love &amp; Truth in Context</b>		
Session 1	<i>Culture Making</i> by Andy Crouch, Introduction - ch. 2	<b>Practice</b> Think of someone who has a heart and love for our local community that you would like to emulate. Invite them to lunch or coffee so you can ask them about the community and what they've learned from seeking to love it.
Session 2	<i>Culture Making</i> , ch. 3-5	
Session 3	<i>Culture Making</i> , ch. 6-7	
Session 4	<i>Culture Making</i> , ch. 8-10	
Session 5	<i>Culture Making</i> , ch. 11-13	
Session 6	<i>Culture Making</i> , ch. 14-16	
<b>Proclaim the Gospel</b>		
Session 7	<i>The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission</i> by John Dickson, Introduction - ch. 2	<b>Practice</b> Ask the Holy Spirit to help you choose one way of proclaiming the gospel to work on this month. Tell your core group how you plan to do that, and ask them to pray blessing on your efforts.
Session 8	<i>The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission</i> , ch. 3-4	
Session 9	<i>The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission</i> , ch. 5-6	
Session 10	<i>The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission</i> , ch. 7-8	
Session 11	<i>The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission</i> , ch. 9-10	
Session 12	<i>The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission</i> , ch. 11-12	
<b>Do Justice &amp; Mercy</b>		
Session 13	<i>Generous Justice</i> by Timothy Keller, Introduction - ch. 1	<b>Practice</b> Go back to the person you interviewed during the Practice for "Apply Love & Truth in Context." Ask them about injustices they see in the local community, and how you can support efforts to help the vulnerable and extend acts of mercy. Make a plan together to do that.
Session 14	<i>Generous Justice</i> by Timothy Keller, ch. 2-3	
Session 15	<i>Generous Justice</i> by Timothy Keller, ch. 4	
Session 16	<i>Generous Justice</i> by Timothy Keller, ch. 5	
Session 17	<i>Generous Justice</i> by Timothy Keller, ch. 6	
Session 18	<i>Generous Justice</i> by Timothy Keller, ch. 7-8	
<b>Create &amp; Cultivate</b>		
Session 19	<i>Work Matters</i> by Tom Nelson, Introduction - ch. 1	<b>Practice</b> For the next 4 Saturdays, plan out 2-3 hours each Saturday to invite God's power and love deeper in

Session 20	<i>Work Matters</i> , ch. 2-3	your work. You might do it somewhere quiet and rejuvenating. Use one of these resources to help you: - End-of-week " <a href="#">Work Examen</a> " to process your work-life with yourself and the Lord. - <a href="#">4-Week Guided Journey</a> to strengthen the soul of your leadership
Session 21	<i>Work Matters</i> , ch. 4-5	
Session 22	<i>Work Matters</i> , ch. 6-7	
Session 23	<i>Work Matters</i> , ch. 8-9	
Session 24	<i>Work Matters</i> , ch. 10	

**Year 3 Alternative Book Choices**

- Apply Love and Truth in Context: *How to Reach the West Again* by Tim Keller; *Beautiful Resistance* by Jon Tyson
- Proclaim the Gospel: *The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission* by John Dickson
- *The Justice Calling* by Hoang and Johnson
- *Work* by Dan Doriani; *Women & Work* edited by Courtney Moore