



Explore
the Bible®

STEP-BY-STEP LAUNCH GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

What to Communicate About Explore the Bible

Before you do anything, familiarize yourself with Explore the Bible. The people you lead, or lead with, will also need to become familiar with everything, as well. Here are some essential questions and answers that provide an overview of Explore the Bible.

Why Explore the Bible?

In an age of relative truth, it is essential that the people of God study His Word in a way that not only informs but transforms. Explore the Bible is carefully crafted to provide an immersive, book-by-book Bible study experience for adults, students, and kids. Every session takes participants deep into the context of every passage and compels them to live Scripture every day.

Why study the text in context?

Every passage of Scripture has a context that illuminates its original intent. In order to have the most complete understanding of Scripture, we must understand the historical and cultural factors that influenced Scripture as it was written, as well as how it fits into Scripture as a whole. With an accurate understanding of Scripture, we are properly equipped to apply the text in our lives.

What is the intended outcome of Explore the Bible?

To motivate people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to equip the faithful to study God's Word in a way that both informs and transforms.



INTRO

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What are indicators that Explore the Bible is working?

- People and groups grow in their knowledge of and love for Scripture.
- Families are equipped to grow stronger together as they apply the Bible to their lives.
- The discussion that takes place within the sessions will build community around the truths of God's Word.
- By studying Scripture in context, your people will be equipped to understand the intent of Scripture and better apply it in their daily lives.
- As a result, your people will begin to share how living out their faith has impacted their daily lives.

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How to Effectively Get People on Board with Explore the Bible

Once the decision has been made to switch to Explore the Bible, it is important to begin communicating the transition as soon as possible. If you are a pastor or leader, begin meeting with ministry and group leaders. If you have several group leaders, host training specially focused on Explore the Bible.

Below, you will find resources to help you cast vision and train your leaders as you transition to Explore the Bible. Regardless of how long you have until your launch, you will want to introduce Explore the Bible, train your leaders, and then promote Explore the Bible to your church.

STEP 1: INTRODUCE

We encourage you to introduce these elements in a meeting and follow up with your leaders via email:

- Explore the Bible Promotional Video
- Explore the Bible Study Plan PDF
- Sample Session
- Email 1.1: Introducing Explore the Bible (pg. 6)
- 1.2 Email: What will Explore the Bible help us accomplish? (pg. 7)

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STEP 2: TRAIN

These elements can be introduced in a meeting or through email. If you decide to send them via email, follow up with a phone call to encourage your leaders to look at the materials, clarify anything that needs to be communicated, and answer any questions they may have:

- Explore the Bible Training Videos
- Detailed Schedule for Semester/Quarter (create your church's own schedule or follow the *Leader Guide* table of contents)
- Teach through an Explore the Bible session
- 2.1 Email: Preparing to Teach Explore the Bible (pg. 8)
- 2.2 Email: The Schedule for Explore the Bible (pg. 9)

STEP 3: PROMOTE

These elements provide some simple steps you can take to build excitement for Explore the Bible throughout your church.

- Introduce Explore the Bible to the congregation (show Promotional Video or Introduction Video, pastor talking points)
- 3.1 Email: Email to Group Members (Adults and Students) (pg. 10)



step
ONE

STEP ONE: INTRODUCE

Email 1.1: Introducing Explore the Bible

Leaders/Teachers,

This coming semester, we will begin using Explore the Bible in our groups. We are excited about this opportunity to study the Word deeply and grow in our knowledge and application of God's truths.

What is Explore the Bible?

In short, it is book-by-book Bible studies for adults, students, and kids. Specifically, Explore the Bible will help us get closer to God's Word by studying every passage of Scripture in its appropriate biblical, historical, and cultural context. Studying the Bible this way is an important part of not only understanding the Bible correctly, but also correctly applying Scripture in our daily lives. This is how transformation happens—when we both understand and apply God's Word.

Here's a link to some sample sessions from Explore the Bible for you to read over and become familiar with the format of the material. Also, make sure you attend our training event at the time and place noted below. During this time you will receive training and other helpful insights into using Explore the Bible in your group.

Date:

Time:

Place:



step
ONE

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STEP ONE: INTRODUCE

Email 1.2: What will Explore the Bible help us accomplish?

Leaders/Teachers,

One of the many strengths of Explore the Bible is that it will help our people grow in their understanding and knowledge of Scripture, and also in their ability to put Scripture to use in their daily lives. In other words, people will be encouraged to not just be hearers of the Word, but also doers of the Word, as it says in James 1:22.

Here is what you can expect from Explore the Bible:

- In-depth, book-by-book Bible study
- Discussion-driven sessions that encourage group growth in the Word
- Studies that examine how each text fits into the larger Bible context
- Weekly summaries that challenge people to live out Bible truths in their own context

We hope you are excited about implementing Explore the Bible here at the church. We are praying that God would use this Bible study to instill a deep love for His Word and compel us to live on mission for Jesus Christ.



step
TWO

STEP TWO: TRAIN

Email 2.1: Preparing to Teach Explore the Bible

Leaders/Teachers,

It is almost time to launch Explore the Bible at our church! The anticipation and excitement is building, and I want you to be as prepared as possible for the first time you lead your group. Below is a link to several training videos that will help you prepare to teach.

Explore the Bible Training Videos

Also, you will want to bookmark the Leader Extras page at lifeway.com/ExploreTheBible. Here you will find a host of resources for each session to help you prepare and go deeper.



step
TWO

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STEP TWO: TRAIN

Email 2.2: The Schedule for Explore the Bible

Leaders/Teachers,

Attached you will find a schedule listing each of the sessions for Explore the Bible we are about to begin. This will help you stay ahead and plan for others to teach or lead the discussion, when necessary. (This schedule will need to be developed according to your church's calendar.)

As we prepare to launch Explore the Bible in our church, let's pray that the transition would run smoothly and that God would use this material to deepen our love for His Word.



step
THREE

STEP THREE: PROMOTE

Email 3.1: Email to Group Members (Adults and Students)

Leaders/Teachers,

Below I have drafted an email that you can send to your group introducing them to Explore the Bible. Feel free to personalize the email; I just want to make sure you have everything you need to communicate with your group.

Group,

We will soon begin our study through Explore the Bible! In an age of relative truth, it is essential that the people of God study His Word in a way that not only informs but transforms. Explore the Bible will provide us with an immersive, book-by-book Bible study experience that will take us deep into the context of every passage and compels us to live Scripture every day.

In preparation for our study, I would encourage you to visit the Explore the Bible website, lifeway.com/explorethebible. There, you can learn more about the heart of the study and begin setting expectations for our time together.

To get the most out of our group time every week, it is important that we all read and reflect on each weekly session. This way, when we gather, we will all be on the same page and ready to contribute to the discussion. I am very excited to dig into God's Word with you all and look forward to our first meeting.

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THREE

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Introducing Explore the Bible Meeting Agenda

- Welcome everyone and thank them for their time.
- Explain that the church is going to transition to Explore the Bible. Use the promises of Explore the Bible to help explain how Explore the Bible will help everyone:
- Study all Scripture because every book matters.
- Understand the text in its context to ensure the original intent of every passage is clear.
- Develop a deeper knowledge of Scripture to build intimacy with God and His Word.
- Discover the world of the Bible to illuminate the very real people, places, and events in Scripture.
- Apply scriptural truths every day because a transforming knowledge of Scripture is an active application of its truth.
- Show Explore the Bible Promotional Video and/or Introduction Video to help people see the heart behind the studies.
- Hand out a copy of the sample sessions to each attendee and walk them through the basics of the session. Optionally, lead the attendees through the session as if they were members of the group and you were the group leader. This can help them better understand how the study works as they experience it firsthand.
- Show available Training Videos to help enhance their understanding of the study. Explore the Bible videos are available for free at ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible.
- Reiterate the mission and purpose of Explore the Bible: to develop a transforming knowledge of God's Word through in-depth, book-by-book Bible studies.
- Take questions. Use the study plan to help answer questions you may get about how the studies work.
- Inform the group of your intended start date and plans regarding the curriculum
- Pray and dismiss.