

The Story of Jesus, his church and the world he came to save



# LOVE DEATH & RESURRECTION

Group Facilitator's Guide



## INTRODUCTION

The Bible is a vital resource, both for those exploring the Christian faith and those who have faith. When people want to understand more about Christianity, the number one place they go (after Google!) is the Bible. For Christians, reading the Bible is the practice that has the biggest impact on spiritual growth.

Love, Death and Resurrection is the New Testament in a new format, created for the Community Bible Experience: chapters, verses, footnotes, headings and double columns are removed. While these references can be helpful, they break up the text and often get in the way of seeing the big picture. The cover has been designed carefully to look more familiar to someone who has never picked up a Bible before.

The order of the New Testament books has also been changed. For example, the book begins with the Gospel of Luke, which tells the story of Jesus, and then follow straight on with Luke's second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, that tells the story of the church that Jesus founded. Paul's writings, which are arranged in order of length in the New Testament, are reorganised into chronological order, to give a sense of following the story.

The format is a book group, not a Bible study. People read around 6 pages a day, Monday to Friday (with Saturday and Sunday to catch up!) During the week they get together to discuss what they have read using five simple questions, the first of which is, "What did you notice for the first time?"

Reading such large sections results in the New Testament being read in whole books, rather than just a few verses. The result is a greater understanding of the big picture of the Bible.



## TIPS FOR READING

Every day, Monday to Friday, there will be around 6 pages of reading. That's roughly 15 minutes a day.

Some people find reading at the same time and in the same place helps establish a habit of reading the Bible. Others like variety.

Encourage people not to worry if they don't get all the reading done. It's not a competition or a race. Chances are, even if folk miss a day, they will be reading far more of the Bible than they normally do.

The readings are all available online as an audio version for those who prefer listening. Please note each day of the audio version covers 2 days of our reading plan which you find later in this guide.

The audio version can be found by clicking [here](#) or visiting [www.scottishbiblesociety.org](http://www.scottishbiblesociety.org)

If people haven't completed the reading each week, they should still come along to their group. Often, it's in listening to others share what they read that helps us in our own reading.

The Introductions in Love, Death and Resurrection help give an overview to each book. It can be tempting to skip these, but many people have said that it is through reading the introductions they get a better sense of the big picture.

Encourage Group members to take notes. The book is there to be underlined, highlighted, and written on. This is really helpful when it comes to the discussion.



## FACILITATING A GROUP

The great thing about Community Bible Experience is how easy it is to facilitate. The only preparation that is required of the Leader is to pray and read the text.

Groups meet every week.

Facilitating means you don't have all the answers. Instead, you are wanting to facilitate the discussion of what people have read in the Bible.

Your group may include people who are new to the Bible and others who have been reading the Bible all their life. The great thing is that everyone can contribute and be part of the discussion.

Because of how much text is covered each week, it won't be possible to cover every detail. Some people in the group will find this more of a challenge!

More than anything, the groups are about sharing what people heard from God as they read his Word.

Each week it is good to start with a short time of fellowship and a prayer. After the discussion, end the Group with a time of prayer which should draw on issues raised during the discussion.

The bulk of the meeting should be spent discussing the week's reading, using the following five questions:

- > **What did you notice for the first time?**
- > **What questions did you have?**
- > **Was there anything that bothered you?**
- > **What did you learn about loving God?**
- > **What did you learn about loving others?**



## PLANNING YOUR GATHERINGS

Groups meet once a week during Community Bible Experience. The next few pages cover some useful information to help you get the most out of your weekly gatherings.

### **How many times should we meet?**

Plan on meeting 18 times during your reading campaign. Hold your first gathering before everyone starts reading and again when you have completed the readings.

### **How much time should we spend together?**

Most groups will meet for around 90 minutes each week, but you can adjust this to the needs of your group.

### **What will we cover?**

Here's a general outline of each week's discussion. Feel free to adapt as needed:

- Opening prayer and introductions (5-10 mins)
- Use the Five Questions to reflect on the readings (50-60 mins)
- Preparing for the week ahead (10-20 mins)
- Closing prayer (5 mins)



## THE FIVE QUESTIONS

There are five simple questions to help facilitate the discussion:

- > **What did you notice for the first time?**
- > **What questions did you have?**
- > **Was there anything that bothered you?**
- > **What did you learn about loving God?**
- > **What did you learn about loving others?**

These are open questions, that can as easily be answered by someone who has never read the Bible as those who have a regular Bible reading habit.

Encourage people to pay attention to the text and what they read. It is important that you allow enough time to be given to each question. Rather than answering questions, with pre-set "right" answers, people share what God said as they read. It is about learning to read the Bible with the expectation that God speaks as we read.

The first three questions explore the text, while the last two seek to apply the text to life, using Jesus' great summary, "love God, love neighbour" (Matthew 22:37-40).

As ever with small groups, it is about balancing different voices - making sure everyone has a chance to contribute and not allowing certain voices to dominate. The five questions really encourage people to share what God has said to them when they read.



## FACILITATING DISCUSSIONS

This is likely to be one of the easiest group experiences to lead. You don't have to have all the answers; you just have to get the ball rolling each week. Chances are, your group members will come full of things to discuss. Here are some tips for a successful group experience.

### **Don't stress.**

You don't have to do any advance preparation to lead your group on this journey. You just need to keep up with each day's reading and pray for your group.

### **Think "book club."**

Participants will come with different perspectives, backgrounds, and assumptions. Some may be new to the Bible; others may be lifelong students. Your job isn't to settle every debate or answer every question. Let the Bible speak for itself, and let each person absorb the story as it unfolds.

### **Give everyone a voice.**

Encourage each person to join the conversation (but don't pressure anyone to share if they don't want to). Make sure no one inadvertently monopolises the conversation. If this happens, try inviting some of the quieter participants to share their observations.

### **Share the reins.**

Anyone can facilitate a Community Bible Experience discussion group. If you feel like a change of pace, give yourself the night off and invite another member to guide the conversation.



# READING PLAN

This reading plan outlines the reading for five days per week over 16 weeks.

## 5 Feb 2024 – Week 1

			<b>Read to...</b>	<b>Audio Day</b>
1	Mon	p. 1-6	... he appeared publicly to Israel.	1
2	Tue	p. 6-11	... he left them until an opportune time.	1
3	Wed	p. 11-19	... go in peace.	2
4	Thu	p. 19-24	... whoever is not against you is for you.	2
5	Fri	p. 25-29	... a lamp shines its light on you.	3

## 12 Feb 2024 – Week 2

6	Mon	p. 29-33	... worked all through the dough.	3
7	Tue	p. 33-38	... we have only done our duty.	4
8	Wed	p. 38-42	... and kill them in front of me.	4
9	Thu	p. 42-47	... to hear him at the temple.	5
10	Fri	p. 47-54	The end of Luke	5

## 19 Feb 2024 – Week 3

11	Mon	p. 55-58	... those who were being saved.	6
12	Tue	p. 58-64	... priests became obedient to the faith.	6
13	Wed	p. 64-70	... it increased in numbers.	7
14	Thu	p. 70-75	... continued to spread and flourish.	7
15	Fri	p. 75-81	... and grew daily in numbers.	8

## 26 Feb 2024 – Week 4

16	Mon	p. 81-86	... spread widely and grew in power.	8
17	Tue	p. 87-94	... under guard at Herod's palace.	9
18	Wed	p. 94-102	The end of Acts	9
19	Thu	p. 103-109	The end of 1 Thessalonians	10
20	Fri	p. 111-115	The end of 2 Thessalonians	10

## 4 Mar 2024 – Week 5

21	Mon	p. 117-123	... and with a gentle spirit?	11
22	Tue	p. 123-126	... I too have the spirit of God.	11
23	Wed	p. 127-131	... give further directions.	12
24	Thu	p. 131-138	The end of 1 Corinthians	12
25	Fri	p. 139-146	... my joy knows no bounds.	13



**11 Mar 2024 – Week 6**

26	Mon	p. 146-153
27	Tue	p. 154-159
28	Wed	p. 159-163
29	Thu	p. 164-171
30	Fri	p. 171-177

**Read to...**

The end of 2 Corinthians
... Christ died for nothing!
The end of Galatians
... we uphold the law.
... that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Audio Day**

13
14
14
15
15

**18 Mar 2024 – Week 7**

31	Mon	p. 177-182
32	Tue	p. 182-188
33	Wed	p. 189-192
34	Thu	p. 192-195
35	Fri	p. 197-201

**Read to...**

... for ever. Amen!
The end of Romans
... faith in Christ is.
The end of Colossians
... and ever! Amen.

**Audio Day**

16
16
17
17
18

**25 Mar 2024 – Week 8**

36	Mon	p. 201-210
37	Tue	p. 211-217
38	Wed	p. 219-226
39	Thu	p. 227-238
40	Fri	CatchUp Day

**Read to...**

The end of Philemon
The end of Philippians
The end of 1 Timothy
The end of 2 Timothy

**Audio Day**

18
19
19
20

**Easter - 1 Apr 2024 – CatchUp Week****8 Apr 2024 – Week 9**

41	Mon	p. 239-246
42	Tue	p. 246-251
43	Wed	p. 251-256
44	Thu	p. 256-262
45	Fri	p. 262-266

**Read to...**

... with unquenchable fire.
... will reward you.
... into his harvest field.
... is my brother and sister and mother.
... all who touched it were healed.

**Audio Day**

21
21
22
22
23

**15 Apr 2024 – Week 10**

46	Mon	p. 266-272
47	Tue	p. 272-278
48	Wed	p. 278-285
49	Thu	p. 285-288
50	Fri	p. 288-292

**Read to...**

... forgive a brother or sister from your heart.
... so they left him and went away.
... but the righteous to eternal life.
... he went outside and wept bitterly.
The end of Matthew

**Audio Day**

23
24
24
25
25

**22 Apr 2024 – Week 11**

51	Mon	p. 293-296
52	Tue	p. 296-299
53	Wed	p. 299-306
54	Thu	p. 306-311
55	Fri	p. 313-317

**Read to...**

... according to his will.
... to whom we must give account.
... those who have faith are saved.
The end of Hebrews.
... you have become a law breaker.

**Audio Day**

26
26
27
27
28

**29 Apr 2024 – Week 12**

56	Mon	p. 317-320
57	Tue	p. 321-331
58	Wed	p. 331-338
59	Thu	p. 338-349
60	Fri	p. 349-354

**Read to...**

The end of James
... the wind and waves obey him!
... not to tell anyone about him.
... I say to everyone: "Watch!"
The end of Mark

**Audio Day**

28
29
29
30
30

**6 May 2024 – Week 13**

61	Mon	p. 355-359
62	Tue	p. 359-362
63	Wed	p. 363-368
64	Thu	p. 369-372
65	Fri	p. 373-381

**Read to...**

... now you have received mercy.
The end of 1 Peter
The end of 2 Peter
The end of Jude
... God's wrath remains in them.

**Audio Day**

31
31
32
32
33

**13 May 2024 – Week 14**

66	Mon	p. 382-388
67	Tue	p. 388-395
68	Wed	p. 395-401
69	Thu	p. 401-407
70	Fri	p.407-414

**Read to...**

... was later to betray him.
... open the eyes of the blind?
... what the Father has told me to say.
... that I myself may be in them.
The end of John

**Audio Day**

33
34
34
35
35

**20 May 2024 – Week 15**

71	Mon	p. 415-422
72	Tue	p. 423-429
73	Wed	p. 431-435
74	Thu	p. 436-439
75	Fri	p. 439-447

**Read to...**

The end of 1 John
The end of 3 John
... and who has come, the Almighty.
... what the Spirit says to the churches.
... an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

**Audio Day**

36
36
37
37
38

**27 May 2024 – Week 16**

76	Mon	p. 447-452
77	Tue	p. 452-457
78	Wed	p. 457-461
79	Thu	CatchUp Day
80	Fri	CatchUp Day

**Read to...**

... because the plague was so terrible.
... who bears testimony to Jesus.
The end of Revelation
Optional: p. 463-468
Optional: p. 470-471

**Audio Day**

38
39
39
40
40

**The material in this guide has been compiled from material provided by the  
Scottish Bible Society.**

[scottishbiblesociety.org/CBE](http://scottishbiblesociety.org/CBE)

