

IMMERSE

BOOK CLUB HOST GUIDE

Hello Book Club Host,

Thank you so much for jumping in to host an Immerse Book Club as we read through the books of Luke and Acts together. We are really excited for the journey you will be starting soon and look forward to all that God will do in and through you.

As a host, your role is a bit different than the role of a Bible Study leader. There are zero expectations for you to know all the answers, teach through the Bible or even lead by answering every question. Instead, we ask that you create an inviting, safe environment for people to share and grow together by keeping the conversation going.

HERE ARE A FEW MORE DETAILS AND POINTERS FOR GETTING YOUR IMMERSE BOOK CLUB STARTED:

WHO: Invite your current group to participate in Immerse or start a book club in your neighborhood, workplace, apartment complex or circle of friends. This experience is not exclusively for Christ followers but for anyone interested in reading the books of Luke and Acts and follow along with the story of Jesus.

WHEN: We recommend meeting **weekly** for 90 minutes to give plenty of time to discuss the reading. Be sure to communicate the start and end time to everyone in advance and plan to honor the time selected.

Where: Just because you are hosting the book club, it doesn't mean you must host in your home. Get creative! Meet at a local coffee shop, a favorite outdoor spot, the patio of a restaurant or your workplace lunchroom. If needed, contact your campus Groups Pastor or Director to see if your book club could be hosted at your campus.

TIPS AND POINTERS:

- Reading through the Immerse Bible will feel different than reading a traditional Bible with chapters and verses. Stick with it and fight the urge to look at commentaries, references or even googling answers to your questions.
- We encourage reading daily through the reading plan provided by Chase Oaks. But, we know that sometimes life gets busy so don't worry if you didn't read each day. Start each week fresh and start with the reading for that day instead of going back and catching up. Also, be sure to encourage everyone to come to book club—even if they were not able to complete the reading that week.
- As you read, be sure to jot down some things that stood out to you in case you need to get the conversation going.

PARKING LOT QUESTIONS:

We know that yourself and others will wrestle with some of the reading or have some great questions as you dive into Immerse. That is amazing! Asking questions is exactly what book club is all about. The tricky part will be not feeling the pressure to answer all the questions.

We encourage you, as the host, to not pull out your phone or computer to google an answer or even teach through the passage. **Instead respond with something like this:**

- That's a great question. Has anyone else wondered the same thing?
- I have (or haven't) thought about that before. Let's stay on the reading plan and see if we discover an answer.
- Wow, that is a tough one. I don't have the answer but let's write that down and wrestle with it for a while longer.

FIRST MEETING SUGGESTIONS:

- Welcome everyone and go around for everyone to introduce themselves
- Ask a good question to answer like: What drew you to join an Immerse Book Club?
- Remind everyone about the start and end time and that you are meeting weekly
- Any expectations for your time together: Try not to dominate the conversation, Listen carefully to others, Respond respectfully if your opinion is different than someone's, Try not to interrupt
- Explain that Day 1 of the Reading Plan begins on January 17. If you'd like to discuss the sermon from January 14/16 weekend, great! Moving forward, you will discuss what you've read in the week prior to your book club.

If you run into some particularly challenging or a situation in your book club that you would like some help with, please reach out to your group coach for support. If you do not know who your coach is, please reach out to your campus Groups Pastor or Director.

