

# Introduction

## Scripture Is Essential to the Way of Jesus

What we think about will shape what we believe, who we become, and ultimately, how we live. This is why the Apostle Paul tells us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds—a process that will lead to a transformed life. For Jesus, meditating on the Scriptures went beyond self-development or intellect to a more personal and compelling reality. The Bible has the power to translate the world around us and tell a truer, better story that exposes lies and reveals the coming hope of life as it should be. It is a book (or, more accurately, a library) unlike any other, in that as we read it, we are read by it.

The Scriptures played an essential role in Jesus' life and ministry; he lived as if they were authoritative. The Scriptures were not as much a tool, instrument, or weapon for him, as they were part of how he viewed and interacted with both God and the world. The integration of Scripture in Jesus' life was paramount to his ability to see the transforming promise of the coming Kingdom of God. In fact, Jesus is the singular person in all of biblical history to claim that the Scriptures were not only forming him, they were about him. The story of the Bible culminates in the person of Jesus.

Our aim, as **Be Love Co.**, is to Believe The Good News, Become The Good News, and Share The Good News. The only way to get the life of Jesus is to take on the lifestyle of Jesus. Through the daily reading of the Scriptures, his reality becomes our reality. Following in the footsteps of our Rabbi, we want to read the Scriptures every day so that they might come alive in us and that we might see the world, know the Father's love, and serve our neighbor the way Jesus did.

# How To Use Our Reading Plan

## Daily Bible Reading Plan

In these pages, you will find a daily Bible reading plan organized thematically around the church calendar—an annual cycle of seasons and days observed by the global, historic church crafted to remember Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. This book will help you pray, meditate, and journal through the Scriptures using a rhythm called BREAD, which is a modern take on lectio divina, an ancient and time-tested method of meeting with God in the pages of the Bible. Simply spend time each day allowing the prompts below to guide your time.

**BE STILL:** Start by putting away your devices or any distractions and get into a comfortable but alert position. Take a moment to let the noise of your mind settle. Become present to your breath, and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your time.

**READ:** When you’re ready, read through the Scripture for that day. After a minute or two, read the passage again slowly. As you read, notice what stands out to you in the passage and write it down.

**ENCOUNTER:** Meditate on what God highlighted to you in the passage by journaling through questions like: Where does this intersect with my current life and circumstances? What might God want me to know about himself, myself, or others? Is God revealing a lie or truth he wants me to notice and respond to? What else might God be saying to me?

**APPLY:** Next, begin to name and write down how God might want you to carry what he’s saying into your day. What truth do you need to hold onto today? How might God want to change you through this passage? Write down how you are going to apply this truth practically today.

**DEVOTE:** Finally, write a prayer, committing yourself to what God has been revealing to you and how you want to be transformed by him and his truth.

## BE STILL

### READ

(THE SUN) RISES AT ONE END OF THE HEAVENS AND MAKES ITS CIRCUIT TO THE OTHER, NOTHING IS DEPRIVED OF ITS WARMTH.

### ENCOUNTER

THE GLORY OF GOD IS REVEALED IN THE SUN, OUR SOURCE OF LIGHT. BUT JESUS SAID, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD." IN HIM, THE PEOPLE WALKING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT. THIS IS A PROMISE THAT NO ONE NEED BE DEPRIVED OF HIS WARMTH. SO STEP OUT OF THE SHADOWS, INTO THE LIGHT, AND BE DRENCHED IN BOTH THE WARMTH AND COLOR OF HIS LOVE.

### APPLY

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO STEP OUTSIDE OF THE SHADOWS? IT MEANS TO COME TOWARDS JESUS, THE LIGHT, AND ENJOY HIS WARMTH. ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF HIS CREATION. WALK IN GREEN SPACES. KICK SOME LEAVES. AND PAUSE EVERY SO OFTEN TO SPIRITUALLY TURN YOUR GAZE HEAVENWARDS TO THANK GOD FOR HIS BEAUTY, AND CONNECT TO THE LOVE THAT GAVE BIRTH TO SUCH BEAUTY. ALLOW THAT LOVE TO FERMEATE YOUR INNER BEING.

### DEVOTE

FATHER, I DEVOTE THIS DAY TO YOU. INVADE MY HEART WITH THE WARMTH OF YOUR SON. AMEN.