



THE VILLAGE

A CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

- Colossians 2:6-7

"Rooted and built up." This journal is intended to help you become just that. It's a tool to help you grow. If you want to grow in faith, if you want to grow in your trust and understanding of who Jesus is and your willingness to follow him, if you want to be "rooted and built up" in faith and in life, then there is no substitute for spending time with God through reading the Bible.

For centuries, followers of Jesus have found everything necessary for faith and for life within the pages of the Bible. The same is still true for us today. The Bible is one big story, and we need to know it. We need to know it because whether we know it or not (and whether we like it or not), we are living a chapter of the ongoing story of God. It's our story. The more we know about the overall story, the more prepared we can be to live the chapter we're currently living.

The Bible can be an intimidating book to read, but it doesn't have to be. It's important to remember that the Bible isn't a book to be learned as much as it is a story to be lived.

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Below is a method to help you approach any passage in the Bible and figure out how you might understand and apply it.

As you approach any passage in scripture, set aside a few minutes. Pray that God will speak to you as you read. Write the date and the book, chapter, and verse that you're reading at the top of the journal page. Then do the following: **R.E.A.P**

Read - Read through the passage a couple different times, looking for a verse or a phrase that sticks out to you: something significant, something that speaks to you in some way, or something you have a question about. Write those words down on your page.

Examine - Examine the words you've written down. Ask some questions: What else is happening here in this story? What does this mean? What can I learn about God in this? What can I learn about people in this? Write down your observations.

Apply - Look for an opportunity to apply what you examined to your own life. Ask some questions: What is God saying to me in this? How am I going to live differently as a result? Write down some thoughts on how you might live differently today as a result of what you've read or what you've learned about God.

Pray - Spend a few minutes praying. Pray specifically for how you might grow in your trust in Jesus and your willingness to follow him in all areas of your life, including anything specific that's come to mind in your reading for today.