

## 7 JOURNEYS READING LIST

*The 7 Journeys concept and this Scripture discovery reading list was developed by Pastor Roy Moran of Shoal Creek Community Church, near Kansas City, and author of "Spent Matches."*

*In Shoal Creek's "hybrid" church model, Journey Groups (believers/church goers) and Discovery Groups (non-believers/unchurched) both gather to read the Bible, obey what God says, and then share it with their friends. The Holy Spirit is the teacher and leads people to discover God's Truths and His Son.*

*Even though the journeys are numbered and each presumes movement from less to more spiritually mature, they are non-linear. That is, everyone is somewhere along the spectrum of each of them simultaneously, and people move freely from one arena to another as the Spirit leads. People may experience a "growth spurt" in one area while "regressing" a bit in another—it's a life-long process!*

*The journeys resemble the map of Disney World: When leaving Tomorrowland, you don't have to go through Fantasyland to get to Frontierland. You can go straight from Tomorrowland to Frontierland. These direct connections from each of the "lands" to the others means you can visit them in whatever order you choose; likewise, you don't have to do the 7 Journeys themes in a particular order.*

*However, in obedience-based discipleship, a group doesn't move on to a new Scripture until a majority are obeying (consistently doing their "I will..." commitments). The goal is progress, not perfection. Encourage small, specific commitments (I will wash the dishes 3 times this week to bless my wife) rather than general ones (I will be a better husband). Each week, each person decides if they need to Repeat, or Revise (tweak their "I will," perhaps to make it more do-able), or are ready to Move On.*

### 7 DISCOVERY PROCESS QUESTIONS

Start with each person sharing how they did with their "I will" and "Share" commitments in the past week. Do they need to repeat or revise or are they ready to move on?

- 1. What are you thankful for today?**
- 2. What are you stressed about or struggling with?**
- 3. Is there anything this group can do to help with those challenges or stresses, or is there any other need we can meet together?**

Have 2 people read the Scripture passage, ideally in 2 different translations.

Have everyone restate it in their own words. Let the group help people to get it right.

Discuss the following questions:

- 4. What does this passage teach us about God?**
- 5. What does this passage teach us about people?**
- 6. What should you do this week in response to this passage? (I will...)**
- 7. Who should you share with this week?**

**Journey 1: Earner to Heir (Trust)** – 17 readings

*Key idea: You are worse off than you think but more loved than you know.*

Genesis 1. There is a God, and He created the world and humans in His image.

Genesis 3:1-19. The first humans disobey God and separate themselves from Him.

Genesis 6:9-22. God grieves over human disobedience but provides a way of hope.

Exodus 20:1-21. God gives His commandments to His people.

Leviticus 4:1-7. God requires offering for the disobedience of His people.

Isaiah 53. God tells of the future suffering of the promised Savior.

Hosea 3. Despite constant unfaithfulness, God provides a way back.

Luke 2:1-20. Jesus is born according to predictions in the first half of Bible (Old Testament)

Luke 5:17-26. Jesus has the authority to forgive our disobedience and to heal.

John 3:1-18. Jesus is God's only Son, sent to bring us back to a life with God.

Luke 15:11-32. God longs for our return to His family.

Luke 18:28-25. Jesus wants us to understand the value of trusting Him.

John 11:38-44. Jesus has authority over death.

Luke 24:36-49. Jesus died and came back to life to secure our forgiveness.

Romans 5:1-11. Jesus' death and resurrection paid our debt to God and makes our return to God's family possible.

Acts 1:1-11. Jesus will come back in the same way that He left.

Acts 2:29-38. Believers respond by proclaiming their personal relationship publicly through repentance and baptism.

**Journey 2: Me-centered to God-centered (Obey)** – 9 readings

*Key idea: What God says ought to matter most.*

Mark 7:17-23. God's work starts at our core and moves outward.

Luke 9:23-25. Following Jesus is a life of surrender.

Luke 18:9-14. True understanding of ourselves creates humility before God.

Ephesians 2:1-10. We must recognize and attack our old way of thinking.

1 John 2:1-6. Obedience is God's love language.

Psalms 119:24-33. What God says matters most.

Romans 12:1-2. Surrender is doing God's will.

Proverbs 3:5-6. Obedience is trusting God rather than self.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20. My body is God's dwelling place on this earth.

### **Journey 3: Receiver to Giver (Share)** – 9 readings

*Key idea: Lost people matter to God, so they ought to matter to me.*

Matthew 28:16-20. God teach the world to obey Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21. We are to join God in reconciling the world.

Matthew 5:13-16. Serving others brings to light the change in us.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23. The mission should mold our relationships.

Luke 10:1-11. Jesus calls us to the spiritually interested.

Acts 1:6-8. All of Jesus' followers are ordained to share His message.

John 4:27-35. People are ready to hear about reconnecting with the Father in heaven.

Luke 19:1-20. Jesus came to find and reconnect people to God.

Matthew 9:35-38. Jesus viewed people as helpless and harassed.

### **Journey 4: Isolation to Community (Relate)** – 9 readings

*Key idea: Made in the image of God, I was designed to live in community.*

Mark 2:1-12. Sacrifice and commitment mark relationships of Jesus' followers.

Hebrews 10:24-25. Building relationships that agitate is essential to the spiritual journey.

Philippians 2:3-8. Jesus' sacrifice sets the standard for our relating.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. Strength is found in relationships, not in isolation.

Acts 2:41-47. Life together focused on the Bible sustains a life of healthy community.

John 13:34-35. When love defines our relationship, Jesus is recognized as our leader.

1 Peter 1:13-23. The quality of our relationships with one another defines us as Jesus' followers.

Ephesians 4:20-29. As children of God, we reflect His manner of relating in the way we relate.

Romans 12:9-21. Obedience to Jesus is seen in our relating to others with love.

**Journey 5: Consumer to Producer (Serve)** – 9 readings

*Key idea: Life is found in giving it away.*

Luke 12:13-21. The abundant life Jesus promised is a life that is rich toward God.

Luke 8:4-15. The fruitfulness of my life is determined by the nature of my obedience.

Romans 12:3-8. I must use the gifts God has given me to experience the riches of His family.

Luke 19:10-27. I am entrusted by God as His steward of this world and my gifts.

1 Peter 4:7-11. God's gifts are to be used for His purposes for His Kingdom.

Galatians 3:26-29. There is no caste system in God's family. All are heirs.

1 Peter 2:1-9. God calls His family to be priests and spread His message.

Matthew 28:16-20. We are all called to the process of making disciple-making disciples.

1 Corinthians 12:1-12. We are called to invest what God has given us for His purposes.

**Journey 6: Charitable to Extravagant (Give)** – 9 readings

*Key idea: If there is anything I have I can't give away, I don't own it; it owns me.*

Romans 8:31-32. God demonstrates a generous heart in the gift of His Son.

Matthew 6:19-24. We can trust God with everything we have because He shows Himself trustworthy.

Luke 18:18-25. Money is a rival of God that can keep us from God's family.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15. Our generosity is a natural reflection of what God is doing to and for us.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. Life's pursuit apart from God leads to futility.

Proverbs 6:6-11. Preparation and frugality are the signs of God's control of our money.

1 Timothy 6:6-10. The desire for money can rob us from a life with God.

Mark 12:41-44. Great sacrifice comes out of our poverty.

2 Corinthians 8:1-7. It is a privilege and responsibility to give to God's work.

**Journey 7: Traveler to Guide (Disciple)** – 8 readings

*Key idea: I was made to reproduce.*

Matthew 28:16-20. Disciple-making is normal for the follower of Christ.

Luke 14:25-33. Access to life with God requires a death on a daily basis.

2 Timothy 2:1-7. Following Jesus means impact the lives of others.

John 15:1-8. Essential to making disciple-makers is learning to stay connected to the source of fruit-bearing.

Matthew 5:3-12. Transforming the internal character of a disciple is crucial to the making of disciple-makers.

2 Corinthians 5:16-20. We have the privilege of joining God as He reconciles the world to Himself.

Hebrews 5:11-14. Full devotion and regular growth are normal for the follower of Christ.

Matthew 7:21-27. Doing what Jesus said is the litmus test of a disciple-making disciple.