

# VINE

**V**

VERSE

**I**

IMMERSE

**N**

NOW

**E**

ENGAGE

## WHAT IS A VINE JOURNAL?

The inspiration for Vine Journaling comes from an ancient practice called “Lectio Divina”. This Latin term simply means, *divine reading*, or in other words, a way of becoming immersed in the Scriptures very personally. With the vision of Life Church in mind, which is to help people know and follow Jesus step by step, the leadership of LCB believes this established and ancient practice will be of deep value in helping our Church family to know Jesus intimately and have found great benefit and enjoyment from this tool in approaching God’s word.

This Vine Journal is a tool for deepening your relationship with God. It is made up of four movements that aim to assist and facilitate your time spent with God. Throughout this time of reflection and communion with God, remember that we are loved by a God who longs to meet with us. His character is one of grace and truth as He desires for us to be formed in the image of His son Jesus, who willingly gave of Himself fully so that we could commune with Him eternally. In this regard we truly do “love Him because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19 NIV)

# THE FOUR MOVEMENTS

## Verse

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“Man, does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matt 4:4 NIV) How do we as Jesus followers, made in the image of God, who is both body and Spirit, live healthy integrated lives? After all, Jesus did promise us that He came to give us life to the full! In the same way that it is important to nourish our physical bodies it is also important to nourish our spirits. We do this by consuming the word of God.

In this first movement of VINE journaling, we ask that you focus on the chosen passage, sit with God’s word - not moving quickly past it, contemplate it, and enjoy the sweetness of His words like honey on your lips (Psalm 119:103). We believe that our hearts are formed by what we give our attention to. So give your attention to the scripture! You can do this by reading the passage slowly, reading it again, pausing often to linger on meaningful words and phrases. Allow God’s word to sink into your heart and take root into the soil of your soul.

## Immerse

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Focus on depth over breadth. In this second movement of VINE journaling we want to immerse ourselves into the scripture. This might involve closing our eyes and using your imagination in a holy way to picture what it would be like to be present at the time when the scriptural account took place. Awaken your senses...what must it have smelled like to be in the room with Mary breaks her perfume at Jesus’ feet, how tired must the disciples have felt after walking all day, try to picture yourself in the story. During this imaginative prayer exploration we’d like to also encourage you to read the passage in varying translations, reference a commentary, or participate in a word study (meaning, look up the Greek and or Hebrew words and meanings of the word or phrase that stands out to you). It is in this pursuit of God that we deepen our relationship with Him. It is also in this practice where we experience the work of the Holy Spirit to renew our minds by “the washing of the word” (Ephesians 5:26).

## Now

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In the third movement we experience the beauty of a relational God. He wants us to not just know about Him, He desires us to truly know Him. During the “Now” movement, we ask the Holy Spirit, “Now what?” Is there application of the passage you have read for your own life? What is the Lord teaching you directly through His word and the insights you have received about Him, the Kingdom, and how to live? How is it moving from perception to practice, by calling you to love God, yourself, others, and the world more holistically? Listen with open ears and an open heart to what the Lord has to say. Write down what you hear and sense. Oftentimes writing thoughts down helps them to take shape and helps us to connect with them.

## Engage

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In this final movement, focus on Him and thank Him for His living word that you have received in this time of prayer and reflection. Perhaps you feel like putting on worship music or continue to process through journaling. Allow yourself the freedom to engage with the Lord in the way He wants you to engage with Him! Finally, archive this time with the Lord in a place where you can easily and frequently reflect on it during the day and in the future. Summarize what you feel the Lord has revealed to you and taught you. This will help cement this encounter into your heart and memory to build your faith in every season!





**WEEK 08**

# Jesus Our All in All

## **1-2**

*"Is anyone thirsty?  
Come and drink—  
even if you have no money!  
Come, take your choice of wine or milk—  
it's all free!  
Why spend your money on food that does not  
give you strength?  
Why pay for food that does you no good?  
Listen to me, and you will eat what is good.  
You will enjoy the finest food.*

## **3-5**

*"Come to me with your ears wide open.  
Listen, and you will find life.  
I will make an everlasting covenant with you.  
I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to  
David.  
See how I used him to display my power among  
the peoples.  
I made him a leader among the nations.  
You also will command nations you do not know,  
and peoples unknown to you will come running  
to obey,  
because I, the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, have made you glorious."*

## **6-7**

*Seek the Lord while you can find him.  
Call on him now while he is near.  
Let the wicked change their ways  
and banish the very thought of doing wrong.  
Let them turn to the Lord that he may have  
mercy on them.  
Yes, turn to our God, for he will  
forgive generously.*

## **8-9**

*"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,"  
says the Lord.  
"And my ways are far beyond anything you  
could imagine.  
For just as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so my ways are higher than your ways*

*and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.*

## **10-13**

*"The rain and snow come down from the heavens  
and stay on the ground to water the earth.  
They cause the grain to grow,  
producing seed for the farmer  
and bread for the hungry.  
It is the same with my word.  
I send it out, and it always produces fruit.  
It will accomplish all I want it to,  
and it will prosper everywhere I send it.  
You will live in joy and peace.  
The mountains and hills will burst into song,  
and the trees of the field will clap their hands!  
Where once there were thorns, cypress trees  
will grow.  
Where nettles grew, myrtles will sprout up.  
These events will bring great honor to the  
Lord's name;  
they will be an everlasting sign of his power  
and love."*

*Isaiah 55:1-13*



## CONTEXT

There are moments in life when we feel the ache in our souls increase. Where we sense a deep longing within us that is primal in nature, that will not be quenched through the things of this world. Even life's greatest gifts, friends, family, vocation etc, do not quench the deep thirst within our hearts. In those moments the words of John 14:6 deeply resonate with us when Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

This week we will be exploring the truth found in Isaiah 55. The book of Isaiah was written during the time when God's people were in exile in Babylon. This section of Isaiah specifically addresses the people's longing for return and renewal, offering assurances of God's salvation and future blessings. Isaiah 55 opens with an invitation to come and receive God's reconciling presence freely, using the imagery of water, wine, and milk to symbolize the abundance and satisfaction found in God's provision and presence. The chapter emphasizes that these blessings are not earned, but are freely given by God, underscoring His grace and generosity. This invitation is extended to all who are thirsty and ultimately desiring God.

When you approach God, desiring His rich presence, how convinced are you of His grace that is free? Do you believe that He longs to meet with you in these moments and nothing is required of you to enjoy His goodness?

Isaiah 55 also foreshadows New Testament themes of salvation and the open invitation of the gospel. The call to "seek the Lord while he may be found" (Isaiah 55:6) comes to fruition in Jesus' invitation in the Gospel of John, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink! Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." (John 7:37-38) Isaiah's language of water that satisfies clearly refers to Jesus being our Living Water, his reference to bread that fulfills us, speaks of Jesus, the Bread of Life. He is our all in all.

Have you allowed the God who fulfills us to meet your deepest longings?

This week, we pray that as you seek the Lord, that you would experience the overwhelming presence of the God who says that "when you seek Him, He will be found," that you would feel enveloped in that promise. We pray that however short or long your time with the Lord is this week, however grand or subtle His manifest presence would be revealed to you, that the truth of His love over you would ring true in the deepest crevasses of your heart.



# Day 01

***“Is anyone thirsty?***

***Come and drink—***

***even if you have no money!***

***Come, take your choice of wine or milk—***

***it’s all free!***

***Why spend your money on food that does  
not give you strength?***

***Why pay for food that does you no good?***

***Listen to me, and you will eat what is good.***

***You will enjoy the finest food.***

***Isaiah 55:1-2***

**VERSE** (Write out the passage.)

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**IMMERSE** (Reflect on the passage.)

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**NOW** (What is the application from the passage?)

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**ENGAGE** (Pray, ponder and become a practitioner of God's word.)

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# Day 02

*“Come to me with your ears wide open.  
Listen, and you will find life.  
I will make an everlasting covenant  
with you.  
I will give you all the unfailing love I  
promised to David.  
See how I used him to display my power  
among the peoples.  
I made him a leader among the nations.  
You also will command nations you do not  
know,  
and peoples unknown to you will come  
running to obey,  
because I, the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, have made you  
glorious.”*

*Isaiah 55:3-5*

**VERSE** (Write out the passage.)

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**IMMERSE** (Reflect on the passage.)

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**NOW** (What is the application from the passage?)

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**ENGAGE** (Pray, ponder and become a practitioner of God's word.)

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# Day 03

***Seek the Lord while you can find him.***

***Call on him now while he is near.***

***Let the wicked change their ways  
and banish the very thought of  
doing wrong.***

***Let them turn to the Lord that he may have  
mercy on them.***

***Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive  
generously.***

***Isaiah 55:6-7***

**VERSE** (Write out the passage.)

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**IMMERSE** (Reflect on the passage.)

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**NOW** (What is the application from the passage?)

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**ENGAGE** (Pray, ponder and become a practitioner of God's word.)

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# Day 04

***“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord.***

***“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.***

***For just as the heavens are higher than the earth,***

***so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.***

***Isaiah 55:8-9***

**VERSE** (Write out the passage.)

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**IMMERSE** (Reflect on the passage.)

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**NOW** (What is the application from the passage?)

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**ENGAGE** (Pray, ponder and become a practitioner of God's word.)

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# Day 05

***“The rain and snow come down from  
the heavens  
and stay on the ground to water the earth.  
They cause the grain to grow,  
producing seed for the farmer  
and bread for the hungry.  
It is the same with my word.  
I send it out, and it always produces fruit.  
It will accomplish all I want it to,  
and it will prosper everywhere I send it.  
You will live in joy and peace.  
The mountains and hills will burst into song,  
and the trees of the field will clap their hands!  
Where once there were thorns, cypress trees  
will grow.  
Where nettles grew, myrtles will sprout up.  
These events will bring great honor to the  
Lord’s name;  
they will be an everlasting sign of his power  
and love.”***

***Isaiah 55:10-13***