

# CORE40

## Welcome to the Core40 Experience!

This year-long adventure is designed to help you better understand the arc and key concepts that are present in the Christian Bible. Together, we'll explore forty pivotal passages that as a grid to help you in further study of scripture.

That's an important idea to remember. Core40 isn't about lifting up these passages as the *only* ones that matter, or even suggesting that they are the *most important* texts. And Core40 certainly isn't about choosing anybody's *favorite* passages – there will be lots of people who wonder why their favorite story or scripture isn't on the list!

Instead, these passages have been carefully selected as a sort of “appetizer platter”. They are intended to give you a sample of some of the main ideas about God, people, and the world that can be discovered in the Bible. They are meant to increase your hunger for more of the meat of God's Word!

Another note: Core40 also isn't arranged *canonically*. Canonical studies are through-the-bible journeys that begin at the front cover with the book of Genesis and then follow a straight line, through ascending page numbers, to the back of the Bible. That's like reading a novel; it's linear.

While there is a general canonical trajectory to Core40, this study has been primarily structured *thematically*. Together, we'll look at eight central streams of thinking in the Bible and treating them as grouped units. A listing of these themes and the sequence we'll follow is below.

If this is your first time picking up a Bible, it's our prayer that Core40 can be a delightful first step into God's Word for you. We pray that you'll tear through this material and then go on to read more! If you have studied the Bible in the past, and this is a refresher course, we hope that you will feel new vigor to rediscover the encouragement that the Old and New Testaments hold out for believers. And if you are a veteran of the text, we trust that you will be reminded once again of what a special book it is that God has given to his children.

May God's Spirit surround you, enlighten you, and sustain you as you journey with us!

**Niccie Kliegl and Tim Breen**

# CORE40 SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

## **Part 1: The Character of God**

*Genesis 1-2, Job 38-42, Psalm 23, Isaiah 40:12-28, 1 John 4:7-21*

The opening unit of Core40 considers who God is and what God is like. These texts are foundational for understanding God's nature and attributes – God's love, power, and wisdom.

## **Part 2: The Ancient Story**

*Genesis 3-11, Genesis 12-15, Exodus 3-15, Deuteronomy 5-6:12, 1 Samuel 16:1-13*

The second component of our journey looks at the first experiences of God's people. It considers the problem of sin and fallenness, the invitation of a chosen family into special relationship with God, and the commitments, called *covenants*, that God makes with men and women.

## **Part 3: A World in Need of Love**

*Romans 3:9-26, Hosea 1-3, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Isaiah 53, Galatians 4:1-7*

The world as we know it is filled with problems and pain. The third phase of Core40 considers the brokenness of society and the need for rescue. The final text points to God's plan and timing in sending the Ultimate Healer, Jesus Christ.

## **Part 4: The Son of God has Come**

*John 1:1-14, Luke 4:1-30, Matthew 5-7, Matthew 27-28:1-15, John 20:24-31*

The central focus of the Bible – the event that everything before anticipates and everything afterward celebrates – is the coming of Jesus Christ to save the world. Four books of the Bible, the *Gospels*, detail what happened when God sent Jesus and explain why Jesus' life and death matters. The fourth element of Core40 considers five texts from this part of scripture.



## **Part 5: The Community of Jesus**

*Matthew 16:18, Acts 2, Philippians 2:1-11, 1 Peter 2:4-10, Galatians 3:28*

The fifth phase of our journey considers the principles and promises that held believers together after Jesus ascended to heaven. These five passages describe how the first Christians lived and why the church remained confident despite trial and persecution.

## **Part 6: What Saved People Do**

*Micah 6:8, Matthew 16:24-25, Psalm 145, Matthew 18:21-35, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34*

Christian belief has long held that we cannot do enough good things or act in a sufficiently holy way to *earn* God's love and forgiveness. At the same time, those who have received salvation are changed and begin to behave in new and beautiful ways. Part 6 of Core40 examines five passages that provide a glimpse of how Christian people speak, act, and fellowship in response to God's work in their lives.

## **Part 7: The Mission of the Church**

*Isaiah 6, Luke 14:1-24, Matthew 28:16-20, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, Colossians 1:15-23*

The Bible's Grand Story incorporates two beautiful trajectories – an inward invitation toward God and an outward momentum toward serving and loving the rest of creation. These passages consider that second movement: mission and witness to the world.

## **Part 8: The Neverending Awaits**

*Hebrews 10:25-29, 1 Corinthians 15, John 14, Romans 8:18-39, Revelation 21-22*

The final unit of Core40 considers the fundamental Christian hope of eternal life. These five passages provide a basis for the convictions that members of God's family have life beyond the grave and that God will bring renewal and ultimate joy in the end.

