



IMMERSE

CityChurch Summer Apprenticeship

WELCOME

I am excited to tell you about a transforming experience called Immerse!

Immerse is an intense summer opportunity designed to help you develop a clear mission for life. Your choices over the next few years will radically impact your future. Immerse can help you chart a good course.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

Individuals in college, soon to start college, or recently out of college who:

- want to be challenged and wrestle with where they are going next in life.
- want to understand what it means to follow Jesus in this postmodern world.
- want to be trained and equipped to lead.

HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?



First, we call you to make time—at this strategic time—to understand how your life fits into God’s purposes.



Second, we challenge you to think deeply and biblically about how Christ’s teaching should guide your life.



Third, we surround you with a family of mature believers who are equipped to mentor you at this pivotal stage.

I invite you to invest your summer with us! Immerse yourself completely and purposefully.

And expect to see fruit.

I hope you decide to take the plunge!



Randy Beckett
Assistant Pastor
CityChurch of Ames-Des Moines

**CLARIFY YOUR
LIFE MISSION
THIS SUMMER**

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUR LIFE?

- Where should I go to college?
- Am I in the right major?
- I want to serve God with my life, but how?
- What does my faith have to do with school and work?
- I feel called to ministry. How do I prepare?
- I've finished college. Now what should I do?
- Where am I going with my life?

These are strategic questions. And they are often answered poorly.

The way you answer them can set the entire direction of your life.

During Immerse you will deal with these questions head on.



“Immerse changed the trajectory of my life. Now, years later, I continue to build on the strong foundation we laid that summer.”

– Amber Riffo

HOW IMMERSE WORKS

Remember, it is all about taking the one life you have and making it count. All the individual components of Immerse work together to help you in this task.

BE CHANGED BY GOD'S WORD

- Acts - discover your mission
- Paul's Letters - discover your family

BE IMPACTED BY COMMUNITY

- Experience life-on-life mentoring
- Take responsibility for ministry
- Play your part in the church family



SEE THE GLOBAL PICTURE

- Meet strategic partners
- Experience a vision trip

IDENTIFY AND ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

write your goals here

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

AT THE CENTER: YOUR LIFE PLAN

The central activity of the summer is a process we call Lifeⁿ. This process helps you develop a life plan that is biblical, that uniquely fits you, and that helps you see what to do now in order to build a powerful future.

The Lifeⁿ process will take you through the following steps.

- My Story—What is My Past and Where am I Going?
- My Purpose—Why Do I Exist?
- My Abilities—What are My Unique Contributions?
- My Legacy—What am I Intentionally Passing On?
- My Strategy—How Do I Make My Legacy a Reality?
- My Habits—How Can I Pursue Lifelong Learning?

You will gain better answers to urgent questions by seeing the fuller picture of how God has designed life to work. Questions like... Am I in the right major? How does my faith connect to school and work? What do I do after I graduate? Who do I marry? How can I be fulfilled and happy? During Immerse you will deal with these questions head on and gain clarity on achieving the potential the Lord created you to have.

LIFEⁿ:
A LIFE THAT IS...
ABUNDANT
EXCEPTIONAL
FULFILLS ITS
POTENTIAL

BE CHANGED BY GOD'S WORD

Many of us long for a real experience with God. The problem is that we often separate this pursuit from any deep interaction with God's Word. The living God has revealed Himself in the Word, but we can't find Him there! One goal of Immerse is that you learn to think biblically and regain the vanishing ability of encountering God in His Word.

Over the summer you will tackle two strategic sections of Scripture. You will make discoveries and develop convictions that give you clarity on your own life purpose.

ACTS

The book of Acts will give you a sweeping, big-picture view of our Lord's mission. You will see what He is working to accomplish from the first century until the day He returns. Most importantly, you will think through how your own life fits into His plan.

PAUL'S LETTERS

It is popular today to love Jesus but not love the church. From these Scriptures you will find that the Church and the churches are actually the centerpiece of our Lord's work. Further, you will discover your role in making a church community be an authentic, dynamic, and life-changing family.



“Immerse was my first major experience with studying the Word in depth, which started me on a path toward becoming more established in my faith.”

– Brenda DeGeeter

BE IMPACTED BY COMMUNITY

During the summer you will participate in (not “attend”) The CityChurch of Ames. A key reason for Immerse’s impact is the unique way it is woven into the community life of a church and of a city-wide network. You will make friends. You will get to know people, older and younger, who want to know you and will take time to invest in your life. You will take part in the following community experiences:



MENTORING

You will meet throughout the summer with a well-equipped, older mentor who will help you think through critical issues and truly internalize what you are learning from the Scriptures.



MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITY

Although you will see many informal opportunities for ministry, you will be asked to assist in a specific ministry sphere within The CityChurch. The responsibility will fit you but also stretch you. You will grow in ministry skills as we assess and equip you in this hands-on context.



LIFE ON LIFE

You will find yourself shaped as people from your church family take an interest in your development. Relationships will emerge spontaneously, but we will also organize strategic opportunities for you to interact with leaders, older families, and mature peers.



GIFTS ASSESSMENT

Your gifts will be assessed as you are observed engaging in ministry and participating in the church family. This, in conjunction with a well-constructed giftedness discovery process, will begin to give you a sense of how God has uniquely wired you.

“Immerse was extremely influential in the shaping of my worldview as a young adult. It helped shift my understanding of the church, ministry and my role within community life.”

– Kari Petersen

SEE THE GLOBAL PICTURE

The CityChurch of Ames-Des Moines spearheads an international ministry working to train leaders and establish churches around the world. We are currently involved in 40 countries on 6 continents, including areas of Southeast Asia where the gospel is expanding rapidly.

Periodically during the summer and at a mid-summer retreat, you will be exposed to visionary leaders from this ministry network.

You will see how the principles you are learning in Immerse work out on a world scale. And you will be challenged to think about how your life fits into God's global mission.

A highlight of the summer will be a visit to one of our USA partner churches. There you will see how principles you are learning are being used in an entirely different ministry context.

“Two main takeaways from Immerse were understanding what biblical evangelism and missions look like and what the functions of the church are.”

- Titus Scheele



IS IMMERSE WORTH YOUR TIME?

That is a vital question to ask. In fact, we do not want you to participate in Immerse unless you can answer this question with a clear “yes.”

The following answers to common questions may help you decide:

Q: I WANT A SIGNIFICANT MINISTRY EXPERIENCE THIS SUMMER, LIKE CAMP COUNSELING OR A SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP. HOW DOES IMMERSE COMPARE?

A: Excellent question! We believe Immerse will have every bit as much impact in your life as other options you are considering, and quite possibly more so. Here's why...



Immerse targets your total life.

We give you a great three-month experience, but our vision goes far beyond the summer. We help you develop in ways that will steer your walk with Christ over your lifetime.



Immerse makes you effective in ministry.

You develop convictions that keep you aligned with the Lord's priorities as you rethink all areas of your life.



Immerse connects you with older and wiser Christ-followers.

You will minister with great people your age, but some of your deepest memories will be of talks you had with godly older members of the church family.

Q: CAN I DO IMMERSE AND TAKE COLLEGE CLASSES AT THE SAME TIME?

A: The issues raised during Immerse are absolutely strategic and need to be given attention. Therefore, we encourage students to give Immerse priority and avoid the added distraction of college classes during the summer. A single class can be managed if you are disciplined and motivated.

Q: I NEED TO MAKE MONEY THIS SUMMER. CAN I DO IMMERSE AND WORK AT THE SAME TIME?

A: We encourage you to have a less-than-full-time job. We assume most of you will need to make some income over the summer. However, Immerse requires a commitment that will be difficult to fulfill working full-time. If you need work and are coming from out of town, we can assist you in finding a job in Ames (a university town with many part-time summer positions). We can also arrange for you to live with a family in order to reduce your expenses.

“Immerse allowed me to discover what the Bible really says about the church—how it functions, its purpose, and my role within it. I redefined who I was as a Christ follower.”

– Megan Burns



KEY DETAILS TO KNOW

WHAT WILL I DO WITH MY TIME?

Each week will be a bit different, but you can normally expect the following:

- 6 hours in the three core discussion groups (Acts, Paul's Letters, Lifeⁿ), usually held on a couple of evening or early morning time slots.
- 6 hours in Bible study and preparation for discussions.
- 5 hours carrying out assigned or spontaneous ministry.
- 20-30 hours working a part-time job.
- Participating in the weekly gatherings of The CityChurch (Sunday morning and evening).
- Enjoying informal time with other apprentices (Saturday ultimate frisbee and pizza has been a favorite).
- Catching lunch with your mentors.

As you can see, the weeks are filled. Don't let this scare you. We have experience with making the summer intense but not overwhelming. We will work with your schedule and make adjustments as needed.



WILL I NEED A CAR?

Wheels are nice, but not absolutely necessary. Housing is available in Ames, and transportation can be arranged for the various Immerse functions.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

Tuition for Immerse will be \$500. This covers the cost of:

- Course materials
- Staffing
- Technology improvement
- Coursework assessment

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

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“Since going through immerse I’ve been able to nail down with better clarity my life work, the role and mission of the church, and better digest and process the Bible.”

- Daniel Kroese



WHAT WILL WE EXPECT FROM YOU?

1. Genuine interest in maturing in your faith. Don't do this because someone talks you into it.
2. A teachable spirit. Make a commitment to quickly talk through any struggles or questions you have.
3. Total Immersion! Make The CityChurch your home over the summer. Don't just "attend" church!
4. Seriousness about Immerse. Make it the main thing you do this summer, not something you just squeeze in.
5. Humility. Truly follow Jesus by learning how to submit each area of your life to God's purposes.

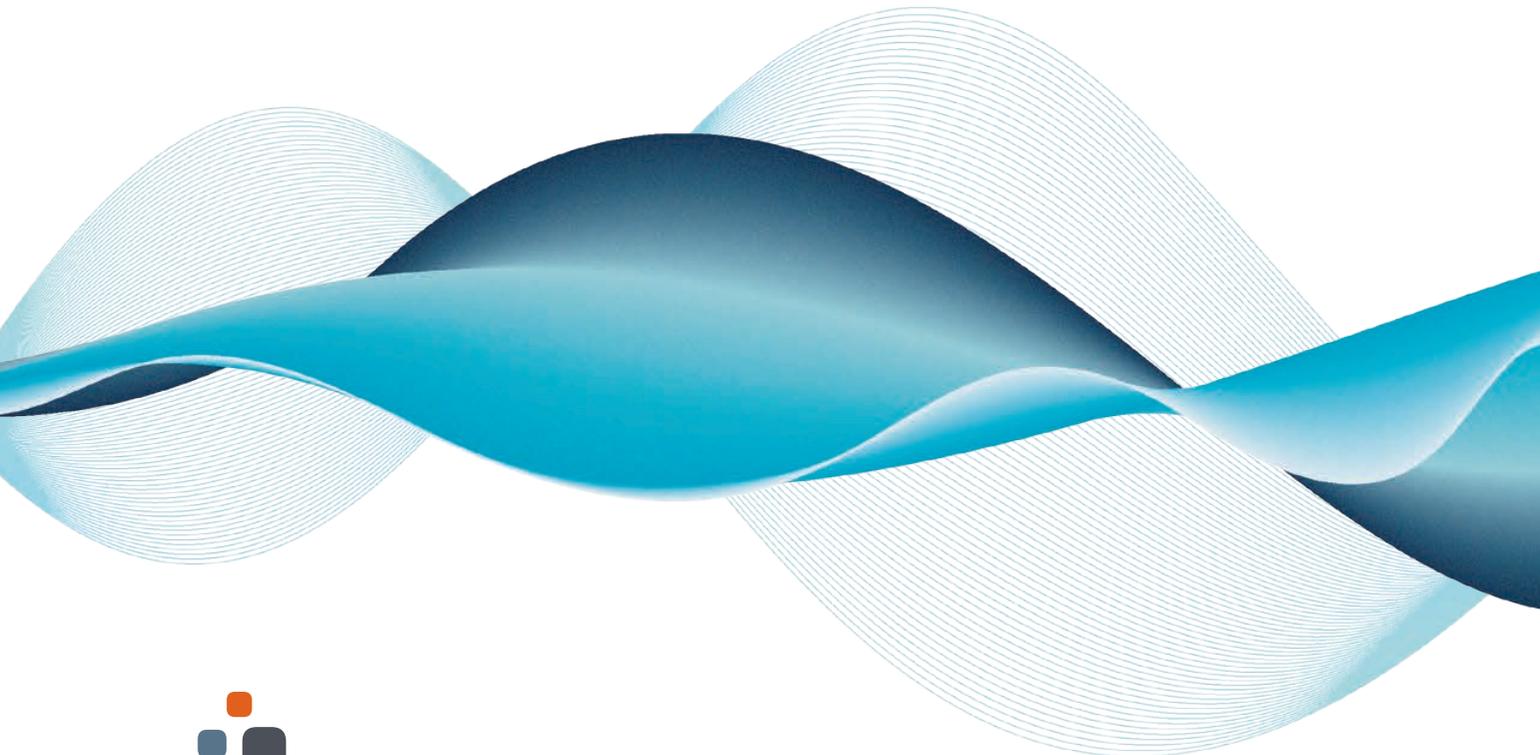
SO THIS IS IMMERSE!

Do you want a clearer vision for what God is doing in this world and how your life fits into His plan? Then jump in!

We are looking forward to a powerful time. Hope you'll join us!!

"Immerse changed the way I read the Bible. Before I went through immerse, I had a passion for the word but only a rudimentary understanding of how it applied to my life in a modern context. Immerse taught me how to understand and interpret the word without getting lost in the weeds of translations and old language."

- Luke Riffo



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