



Immerse

God's Word. Your Neighborhood.

Dear Friend,

Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) is excited to let you know about its new online course series, *Immerse*. Thousands of people through the years have benefited from CCDA's training events, and now the quality content we've offered to help effectively train people in understanding and implementing the CCD philosophy is available right at your fingertips in an online individual or group study format!

Immerse, CCDA's inaugural online course series, is an 11 week study that grounds individuals firmly in the Scriptures while giving practical insights for how to make lasting Kingdom impacts in their neighborhoods. Each week's lesson explores a new key component of the Christian Community Development (CCD) philosophy, includes a short film produced in conjunction with The Work of the People, and provides reflection and application questions to help contextualize the lesson's content. You won't want to miss out on this incredible new resource!

After finishing this intensive, easy-to-follow online group study, your group will be able to:

- Describe the key components of CCD and why they are important
- Understand biblical foundations for CCD philosophy
- Apply insights from past and present CCD practitioners
- Identify practical next steps to engage with others in CCD in your community

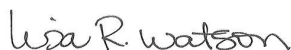
Each week's course includes four different lessons:

- Lesson 1 - Overview (including definition of key component)
- Lesson 2 - Biblical Foundations (related to key component)
- Lesson 3 - Fresh Perspectives (a short film including a practitioner's story from a new perspective)
- Lesson 4 - Next Steps Challenge (so what do we do?)

We think you're going to love this new group resource, and we understand that selecting resources for your organization is a process and takes time. That's why we have created this toolkit. It includes a sample course, daily devotional sample, and a bibliography sample. Along with those resources, we've included testimonials so you can see what others are saying about *Immerse*.

Thank you for taking time to review this toolkit. We look forward to being in touch with you about your interest in *Immerse*.

Sincerely,



Lisa Rodriguez-Watson
Leadership Development & Training Director



We are excited to share more with you about Immerse! This toolkit will provide all you need to become more familiar with this valuable resource. Just click on the links below!

- ⊕ [Immerse Intro](#)
- ⊕ [Sample Digital Journey](#)
- ⊕ [Sample Course](#)
- ⊕ [Sample Bibliography](#)
- ⊕ [Participant Testimonials](#)



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Learn Christian Community Development from experienced practitioners around the country through this premium online course! In collaboration with the American Bible Society and The Work of the People, CCDA is proud to bring its inaugural CCDA Institute Online course to help strengthen your ministry and grow your love for God's Word. The Immerse Series will take you and your small group or team through a process of reimagining and applying key components of the Christian Community Development (CCD) philosophy.



IMMERSE SAMPLE DIGITAL JOURNEY

Unit 6: Listening to the Community

Day 1

Pray:

Jehovah Jireh, thank you for listening to us, and for hearing our prayers and not turning a deaf ear to our lamentations. You are the God who hears, who sees, and who liberates, and for this we give you thanks, honor, and praise; now, and forevermore!

Read:

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." (Exodus 3:1-10)

Reflect:

After what most biblical scholars say was a few centuries of silence, God re-emerges in dramatic fashion. God re-appears before Moses in a burning bush, giving him a great commission. The cries, laments, and oppression of the community compelled God to intervene and come down to meet Moses. God says "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering" (verse 7).

While we usually think about listening to the community as a task that is exclusively for us to engage in, we see here that God also listens to the community. Moreover, not only does God listen to us, but the community's voice also has the power to induce divine actions: intervention and deliverance. Theologian Walter Brueggemann writes "His [God's] history begins in his attentiveness to the cries to the marginal ones."¹

Respond:

How does it make you feel to know that God hears the community's voice and also responds to our cries, laments, and oppression?

What is something that you are crying out to God for?

¹ Brueggemann, Walter. *The Prophetic Imagination*. 2nd Edition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001, 36.



OVERVIEW

Here, you will find definitions and descriptions of relocation. The goal is that you understand the meaning of the term as it has been defined historically in CCDA as well as the challenges that relocation can represent in today's context.

The first three rules of real estate are location, location, location. The foundation of CCD is based on the same principle—location. As a CCD practitioner, where you are located will have implications on the impact you have in a neighborhood or community. Because you may not initially be from or live in the place you seek to become connected to and rooted in, or because you may have been away for a time and be returning to that place, CCD calls the practice *relocation*. Dr. Perkins himself relocated from California back to his hometown of Mendenhall, Mississippi to serve the community and work with them toward justice, redemption, and restoration. *Relocation* is one of the original three R's of the CCD philosophy (the other two being *reconciliation* and *redistribution*).

Historically for CCD, *relocation* simply meant one of three things:

1. A person who relocates or moves into a community from their separate home of origin, often referred to as a **relocator**.
2. A person who is born and raised in the community but left for a time, and chooses to return, sometimes described as a **returner**.
3. And, those who were born and raised in the community and decidedly stay to be a part of the solution to community challenges, who CCD calls **remainers**.

“The intent of the CCD practice of relocation was simply a willingness to go wherever God leads.”

The intent of the CCD practice of relocation was simply a willingness to go wherever God leads, and live in a positive, consequential way on behalf of others around you. Describing relocation this way seems straight-forward and inoffensive. But, it is important to understand that the concept of relocation has its challenges.

IMMERSE SAMPLE BIBLIOGRAPHY



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TESTIMONIALS & ENDORSEMENTS

"CCDA is more than a movement it is a way of life. This curriculum will enhance your desire to be missional and incorporate daily the fundamental principles of being a Christ follower."

Mitchell Torres

"The Immerse online course series is an excellent resource for the Church. It inspires a deeper hunger and love for God's word along with practical teachings in the principles of Christian community development. Immerse is a valuable resource for Christians who desire to love God and love their neighbors well. CCDA has done a marvelous job of creating a resource that captures the heart of their work and now makes it available to the digital world." Dr. John M. Perkins, Founder of John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation; Co-Founder, Christian Community Development Association

"CCDA's online curriculum, Immerse, is a godsend for many urban leaders who are looking to sharpen their personal leadership axe and to resource their ministries well equipped people that are called and determined to effectively impact their community." Gerald Bell, DeVos Urban Leadership Initiative

"When CCDA announced a coming curriculum at the LA Conference I was elated. I have long-desired something to further equip staff and orient volunteers as they enter into urban ministry, but have never had the time to develop something internally. As a young family practically living into CCD values in both work, location, and neighboring a tool to further refine and refresh our direction was exciting. Having piloted the curriculum, I can say that like most things, you will get what you put into it. But CCDA has done their due-diligence in developing an interface that is helpful, material that is comprehensive, and a spirit that is CCDA." Joe Tucker, Akron OH

"The content has been incredible. I love how thoroughly rooted in scripture it is and the connection it makes between the theological and the practical. It has been helpful to have the video elements that demonstrate how the principles are applied in various contexts. The thought provoking nature of the questions has been driving excellent group discussion and deepening our conviction for ways to implement the principles in our Washington Heights/Inwood neighborhood." Matt Mueller, New York, NY

"Great work on this curriculum series! The video segments are outstanding...great voices, teaching, inspiration...and a great launch for conversation afterward. In a community that is very divided and territorial, this curriculum is helping participants to see that CCDA is not some threatening program, but a way of thought, faith, action that is affirming God's Word, all our neighbors, and everyone's gifts." Laura Hoy, Waterloo, IA

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Share your Immerse Journey with us!

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