



**Church Context:** Christ Community ([www.cceei.org](http://www.cceei.org)) is a smaller congregation (less than 50) affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA). Christ Community was birthed back in 1957 and had many ups and downs in its history. Especially over the past few years, the church went through a handful of heartaches.

**Introduction:** I was introduced to G&M, PRS and JSU through Charles Kim. I was fortunate enough to attend Friday morning PRS a couple times, and I was blown away with how powerful listening to dramatized scripture can be with people in community. Therefore, knowing that our church needed to start heading in a different direction, I decided to explore ways of implementing PRS and JSU at our church.

**Summary:** I first arrived at our church in July 2018. I knew I needed to take some time to figure out our church history and context before implementing anything new and radical. I also knew that I needed to develop trust. So after about six months, we officially launched our first JSU book study with “The Prodigal God” at the end of January 2019. We had 12 people sign up! With a church less than 50 people, that was around 1/4 of the entire church! We spent approximately 8 weeks going through the study together. Everyone who participated was blown away with the conversations that were shared. They were also grateful for the opportunity to learn from one another. We had a very diverse group in age and life experience. Therefore, it was incredibly helpful to have the wide range of people sharing from their heart. Based on the debrief forms I received, many would like to participate and facilitate their own JSU book studies. Thanks to Charles, I have learned innovative ways to utilize it, Lord willing in the coming

months. The conversations shared were an incredible blessing. The opportunities to birth more facilitators to utilize in new community groups that we'll be launching this summer is exciting as well.

As far as PRS, Dan Sanford introduced the Public Reading of Scripture app to myself and other colleagues. As I began to utilize the app, I began to think about unique ways to implement it. Because our church context is so unique and we have many commuters, asking people to come out on a weekday would have been tough. Also, to just start it would have been even tougher as well. So we decided to utilize it Sunday mornings before our worship service during the season of Lent. We are approaching the last time we will do PRS at least this time around, but it has been incredibly well received! Therefore our Men's group on Wednesday mornings and have begun utilizing the app as well as spend time for some discussion and sharing. And it looks like one of our community groups will be utilizing PRS as well.

I praise God for these incredible resources and tools and I am thankful for them.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. James Lee, *Pastor*

Christ Community Church (East Islip, NY.)