



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980  
**COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Community Group Guide: Oct 21/22, 2023**

This guide is designed to help you be and become “deeply rooted followers of Jesus” by contributing to increasingly authentic and loving relationships with one another and with God.

## GATHER

**Deeply rooted through a *community based context*.** This section is meant to heighten your awareness of God's presence in your time together, and give one another space to talk about what's really going on in life.

- Pray. Thoughtfully acknowledge God's presence in the room. Commit your time together to him.
- What practical needs should everyone know about? What can we do as a group to help?
- What decisions are you facing? Is there any input you'd like from us as a group?
- What are you praying about right now? How can we as a group join you in prayer?
- Does anyone have a story of where you've seen God at work? Is there something we can join you in celebrating?

## GROW

**Deeply rooted through *biblically based content*.** This section is meant to overlap with the current weekend teaching at your Northview campus and position you, as a group, to be formed by studying Scripture.

- Pray - acknowledge God's presence, and ask for his help to hear what he's saying.
- Revisit the weekend sermon. Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?
- Participate in a guided discussion on Scripture. **The primary text from the weekend sermon was John 13:18-30.**
  - **Step 1: Read The Text**

Familiarize yourself with the section of verses.

## ○ Step 2: Understand Their Story

Ask observation questions to understand what the author is communicating to the original audience.

- Icebreaker: Share a bit from your life to get a feel for a dynamic in the text. Peter is curious about Jesus' intense claims and asks John to inquire further (13:24). While we don't specifically know why Peter did this, describe a time you delegated something to someone because you didn't want to do it. (Could be anything from making your spouse go and deal with a mess your kids have made, to asking a co-worker to handle a task to bribing a sibling to do something uncomfortable for you.)
- Insert yourself into the scene and try imagine what's happening through these simple observations:
  - What is the setting of this scene? *When* do these events take place? (Like last week, refer to 13:1-2).
  - Jesus reveals that something is going to happen that hasn't yet fully occurred (13:18). What does 13:19 indicate about why he tells them this?
  - What is Jesus "feeling" according to 13:21?
  - Jesus eventually identifies his betrayer (13:25-26).
    - What happens to the betrayer? (13:27-30)<sup>1</sup>
    - How does the rest of the room respond? (13:28-30)
    - Does anything surprise you about these events?

## ○ Step 3: Connect To God's Story

Ask questions to understand how this text fits in the larger gospel story.

- Jesus says in 13:18 that Scripture is being fulfilled. Look up Psalm 41:9.
  - Taken together, what additional information does the verse from Psalm 41 add to this scene? What additional words are used in 41:9 to describe the betrayal?
- John 13:21 highlights how Jesus feels in this moment. Check out Hebrews 4:14-16.
  - What does 4:15 tell us about Jesus?
  - What does 4:16 tell us we can do in light of who Jesus is and what he experienced?

## ○ Step 4: Apply To Our Story

Ask questions to discern what God is telling us to do with the help of the Holy Spirit.

- Jesus was aware of the betrayal and anticipated the difficulties he'd face prior to the physical suffering of crucifixion. Consider the many layers to the pain Jesus experienced.
  - How does it encourage or challenge you today to think of Jesus' willingness to endure both emotional and physical pain to bring us salvation? How does this challenge you as you think of enduring or investing with the people or the places you are serving or are thinking of serving?
- There's a way in which each of us may relate to Judas in our vulnerability to sin against God and live like there's better priorities to pursue.
  - What are the most common "betrayals" committed against Jesus today?
  - Is there an area you feel especially vulnerable today? Are there any insights from this text/discussion that could help you do something different about it?

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<sup>1</sup>In Judas' choices in the earthly realm, John also makes us aware of activity in the spiritual realm. While we're not spending time going down the rabbit trail of spiritual oppression, or demonic possession thoroughly this week, there is a reality in which we may find ourselves living in opposition to God. Our physical choices have consequences spiritually. Hang onto these thoughts for further reflection in Step 4: Apply To Our Story below.

- Despite the sin of betrayal, and a collection of other evil activities, God accomplishes his ultimate purposes through Jesus' suffering. Is there something in your life that feels "wrong" or someone in your life who has "wronged" you?
  - Does Jesus' experience of deep betrayal give you some ways to pray differently about your circumstances this week? Or: how might Jesus' obedience to God amidst pain help you think differently about people who have "betrayed" or wronged you?

## GO

**Deeply rooted through *culturally relevant applications*.** This section is meant to prompt practices that bring the life of God's kingdom into us and out to others.

- Pray for your group's **5x5x5** lists!  
***Note from the Discipleship Team: This is something that we're putting deliberately at the top here. Every time. If you don't know what these are, "5x5x5 cards" are available at each campus on the weekend, or at <https://northview.org/5x5x5/>***
- Is there something that seems especially relevant for us to do personally based on our discussion?
- Is there something we as a group should plan to do together based on our discussion?
- Is there something we as a group should plan to do to spend time with someone who doesn't yet follow Jesus?