



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide: Oct 28/29, 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?
- Engage in a guided reflection on Scripture. **The primary text from the weekend sermon was John 13:31-38.**
 - **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: Jesus is about to leave his close friends (John 13:33). Share a bit from your life to get a feel for this dynamic in the text. Describe a time where you experienced a significant or memorable “goodbye”. (Depending on your comfort level, this could be a positive or negative, short-term or permanent experience.)
- Try to imagine what’s happening in this scene through these observations.
 - The last 2 weeks it’s been helpful to recall the larger scene of John 13. What is the setting of this moment? *When* did these events take place? (Revisit the previous sections in the chapter, especially 13:1-2 for help.)
 - What repeated phrase does Jesus use in v.33 and v.36 to describe an upcoming change the disciples will experience?
 - What important parting words of instruction does Jesus give? (13:34)
 - What does Jesus say one of the results of carrying out his instruction will be? (13:35)
 - What does Peter say he’ll do for Jesus in 13:37?

○ Step 3: Connect To God’s Story

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

- John 13:31-32 indicates that Jesus, here referred to as the “Son of Man” is about to be glorified and leave his followers. What additional information does the prophecy in Daniel 7:13-14 (where the “Son of Man” title comes from) indicate will happen to the “Son of Man” as this occurs?
- Look up 1 John 3:16-18 in connection with John 13:34-35. Taken together, what do these verses indicate about...
 - What love looks like? (1 Jn. 3:16)
 - Who we are to love? (1 Jn. 3:16-17)
 - How we are to love? (1 Jn. 3:18)

○ Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- In 13:36-38, Peter’s bold claim is met with Jesus’ prediction of Peter’s failure (“you will deny me three times”), but also with the foreshadowing of Peter’s restoration (“you will follow later”).
 - Like Peter, what areas of your life have started strong in commitment to Jesus but currently feel like you’re falling short - or perhaps, honestly, really failing? What steps can you take in light of the biblical picture of Jesus’ love for you?
- What is a moment where you felt someone really did what Jesus asks in 13:34-35? Why is that memorable?
- Loving one another is something we probably all agree with, but find difficult to do.
 - What makes loving people “in the church” challenging at times?
 - Loving as Jesus loved requires sacrifice. What would you have to sacrifice in order to love someone like Jesus? (Time? Resources?)
 - Who is it that Jesus would likely be challenging you to love more genuinely - and practically - this week?
- In light of John 13:34-35, take some time to think about the “GO” section below with fresh motivation.

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?