



Community Group Guide: Nov 4/5, 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 a guided reflection on Scripture. **The primary text from the weekend sermon was John 14:1-14.**
 - **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 describes several significant “big picture” realities in this passage that are beyond the scope of the immediate events that will take place over the next hours of his life. Share a bit from your life to get a feel for this dynamic in the text (while also helping others get to know you).
 - Describe a time where you were in a place that had an extraordinary viewpoint. (Could be anything from the view from a summit of a hike, to a sunset on a vacation, to the top of a tall building in a city.)
- Try to imagine what’s happening in this scene through these observations.
 - What does Jesus say *is* true about himself in verses 6 and 9?
 - What does Jesus say *will be* true about the disciples in verses 3, 12-14?
 - Keep these observations in mind as you proceed to the next 2 steps.

○ Step 3: Connect To God’s Story

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

- Look up Revelation 21:1-4 in connection with John 14:1-3. What characterizes the future “place” Jesus is preparing? How does the scene in Revelation expand on the one from John’s gospel?
- As noted in Step 2 above, the identity of Jesus is described vividly in John 14.
 - Look up Acts 4:8-12. How does what Jesus says in John 14:6 connect to what the early church preaches?
 - Check out Colossians 2:9. How does what Paul says connect to what Jesus says in John 14:9?

○ 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 doesn’t want his disciples’ hearts to be troubled, despite the events that have unfolded and will eventually unfold in later chapters. Reflect further on John 14:1-3 and the future hope we have.
 - In light of what you may be burdened by today, how do Jesus’ words in 14:1-3 comfort you? Is there someone you could comfort with future hope this week?
- Reflect further on the “exclusivity” of Jesus’ claims in John 14:6.
 - How does this land in our “inclusive” culture? Do you find the idea of “one truth” or “one way to God” an easy thing for people to accept? Why or why not?
 - How does this concept land for you personally as you think about or interact with those who believe something different than you about God/faith/life/Jesus? (Does it cause you to wrestle? Does it motivate you to do something different this week? etc)
- There isn’t space to enter a full “theology of prayer” and “greater works” from John 14:12-14, but for this week consider Jesus’ concern for the glory of the Father (14:13)
 - What types of answered prayers have you seen that have increased your belief in God?
 - Ever forget to honour or thank God amidst wanting him to do something? Even after he’s done it, how can we give him “glory” more authentically?
 - Why / how do we “ask” in “Jesus’ name practically?”¹

¹ “Praying “in Jesus’ name” does not refer to some magic formula added to the end of a prayer. It means to pray in keeping with his character and concerns and, indeed, in union with him. The disciples, through their union with Christ, are taken up into his agenda. This agenda, as throughout his ministry, is to bring glory to the Father (v. 13).”

From Rodney A. Whitacre, *John*, vol. 4, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Westmont, IL: IVP Academic, 1999), 355.

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!
"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?