



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide: February 24/25, 2024

This guide is designed to help you and your group be **deeply rooted followers of Jesus**.

GATHER

Deeply rooted by sharing life seeking the presence of God.

This community based context can 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.

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- 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 by being formed through the word of God.

This biblically based content overlaps with the current weekend teaching at your Northview campus and positions you, as a group, to be shaped by studying Scripture.

- **Pray.** Acknowledge God's presence, and ask for his help to hear what he's saying.
- **Share a takeaway from the weekend sermon.** Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?
- **Facilitate a guided reflection on Scripture.** The text from this past weekend was **John 19:1-16**

Start with an "Icebreaker"

In this passage, Jesus experiences torture amidst the decision making process of the authorities he was handed over to. We'll discuss what this means further in the steps below, but for now, share from your life to get a feel for this dynamic in the text (while also helping others get to know one another).

Icebreaker question: Has there ever been a time when you took the fall for something that you didn't even do? (For example, maybe your siblings blamed you for something they did. Or a coworker or boss shifted the blame to you for their mistake.)

Step 1: Read The Text

Familiarize yourself with this section of verses.

Step 2: Understand Their Story

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

- What do Pilate's soldiers do to Jesus, and what do they say to him in 19:1-3?
- According to the Jews in verse 7 how did Jesus break the law?
- In verses 10-11 what does Jesus say about the authority Pilate has to have Jesus crucified.
- In verse 14 what day does John say it was right before Jesus was handed over to be crucified?

Keep these observations in mind as you proceed through step 3.

Step 3: Connect To God's Story

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

- "...You would have no authority over me unless it was given from above." (19:11)
From Jesus' perspective, he was not at the mercy of Pilate's judgment, even though it was Pilate who ultimately ordered Jesus' crucifixion. From Jesus' vantage point, Jesus was acting in line with the authority and will of the Heavenly Father not Pilate.

- Read Psalm 22:28. What does Psalm 22:28 specifically say about God and his relationship with kings and nations?
- Read Romans 12:1-2. What does Paul say about rulers/governments?
- "...it was the day of Preparation of the Passover..." (19:14)
When John mentions a detail like this we can sometimes skip over it as an unimportant detail. For John this was theologically significant.
 - Read Exodus 12:1-13 for the original context of "the Passover". Focus especially on vv. 6-7 & 13. What purpose did the blood of the lamb on the doorpost and lintel serve?
 - Now read John 1:29. In light of both texts what might John be telling us about Jesus, by giving us this detail about the preparation of the passover being right before Jesus' crucifixion?

Take these reflections with you into Step 4 below.

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 our text we see Jesus mocked as the King of the Jews, yet we know he really is THE King. Though Jesus showed up as a king no one expected, and endured what no earthly king willingly would endure, he is the king we need.
 - What does Jesus' "kingship" mean for you right now?
 - How/where does it comfort you?
 - How/where does it challenge you?
- In light of God's love for you shown through Jesus' willingness to suffer and die on your behalf, what are you moved to do this week?
 - Adoration: Is there a way to incorporate more intentional "praise" towards God this week?
 - Confession: Is there something you need to confess to God or "repent" of this week?
 - Supplication: Is there something you feel prompted to "ask" God for this week?

GO

Deeply rooted by participating in the mission of God.

These culturally relevant applications are meant, with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, to prompt actions that bring the life of God's kingdom into us and out to others.

- Pray for the "lost" in your sphere of influence. Use the **5x5x5 cards** as a tool.
- 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? Or to make/strengthen connections with our neighbours?