



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

**Community Group Guide: March 2/3, 2024**

# 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.

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- **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 19:16b-30**

## Start with an "Icebreaker"

In this passage, Jesus faces the worst suffering any human has ever had to endure. In the following sections, we will explore the significance of his death and what his experiences must have been like. 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: Have you ever known someone who suffered well? What were the qualities or behaviours you admired most as you observed?** (Perhaps someone who experienced a crisis, but displayed a genuine faith, or a family member who struggled with a terminal illness but trusted God to the very end.)

## 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 did Pilate have written on an inscription to put above Jesus on the cross in 19:19?
- What languages did Pilate write this inscription in?
- In a moment unique to this account of Jesus' final moments, Jesus cares for his mother. How does he do this according to 19:25-27?
- Twice in this section of verses, John tells us that Scripture was "fulfilled". Which verses indicate this and in what way was Scripture fulfilled?

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.

- "...this was to fulfill the scripture..."
  - 19:24 cites Psalm 22:18. What similarities do you see from Psalm 22 and the crucifixion event?
  - 19:28 connected to Psalm 69:21. Read Psalm 69:16-21. Who is the Psalmist speaking to? What is he experiencing?
- "...they crucified him..." The significance of this moment cannot be overstated. Here's a few connections to illuminate this further.
  - Go back to both John 3:14-15 and 12:31-33. How did Jesus explain what would happen to him in advance? What does he hope people will do in response?
- "...it is finished..." Many New Testament texts describe the profound reality of what Jesus accomplished. What does Romans 5:1 and Hebrews 10:10 add to your understanding of this scene in John?

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.

- As Easter approaches, is there something you could do to reflect on and savour the cross afresh this year?
  - Alternatively, what things commonly keep us from amazement?
  - What helps you keep the wonder and appreciation alive year after year?
- As we read at the moment of Jesus' imminent death, he alludes to Psalm 69:21. This Psalm voices the laments of a man suffering even though he is righteous. Sometimes, we experience suffering, and there seems to be no rhyme or reason, and that can feel disorienting. Perhaps you are suffering or know someone who is suffering, and yet there seems to be no reason behind it. Reflect on the idea of "lament".
  - Is there an area of suffering you or someone close to you is experiencing?
  - What would it look like to bring your pain to God in prayer by first lamenting with honesty (as Jesus does in his suffering) and then finding hope in one who hung on the cross?

# 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.

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- 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?