



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

**Community Group Leaders' 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.

*You will find that it's not possible to fully cover each of the sections (Gather, Grow, and Go) in this guide. Prayerfully consider how much from each would be right for your group week to week.*

## 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.  
**Leaders note: This is a helpful way to start an organized discussion and calibrate everyone to this essential reality.**
- 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?

**Leaders note: This could be a way to follow up with the application plans from a previous group discussion.**

***\*\*We'd love to share and celebrate stories from our Community Groups to honour God and encourage one another! (Please get permission and pass them on to us as regularly as possible.)\*\****

## 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?

**Leaders note: discussing the sermon people heard may take considerable time.**

**Don't feel pressure to rush through this guide and move on.**

- Facilitate a guided reflection on Scripture. **The primary text from the weekend sermon was John 13:31-38.**

**Leaders note: There's always more in the text than we'll be able to put into a guide.**

**We've chosen a few items to draw your attention to.**

- **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.

**You will hopefully find these simple to answer. They are here to highlight some key details that contribute to the questions in the later steps ahead OR help you look deeper at something that might be easy to miss.**

- 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.)

**Leaders' note: This is a) before the "Feast of Passover", and b) at "the hour" Jesus knew it was time to depart from the world. They've also had Jesus wash their feet and Judas has left the room. Jesus' imminent death is looming in everything he says.**

- What repeated phrase does Jesus use in v.33 and v.36 to describe an upcoming change the disciples will experience?  
**They won't be able to follow him where he's going. Something drastic is about to occur - he won't be with them physically anymore. And Jesus is now beginning to give them some parting instructions.**
- What important parting words of instruction does Jesus give? (13:34)  
**To love one another as he loved them.**
- What does Jesus say one of the results of carrying out his instruction will be? (13:35)  
**The world will know they are his disciples if they love one another.**
- What does Peter say he'll do for Jesus in 13:37?  
**He claims he'll lay down his life for Jesus. This isn't a casual comment. He's bold and confident at this point in the story!**

### ○ 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?
  - **He enters the presence of God - the "ancient of days"**
  - **He's given glory**
  - **He's given an everlasting dominion**
  - **He's given a kingdom that won't be destroyed**
  - **All peoples and nations will serve/worship him.**

**Leaders' note: while the disciples and the crowds will eventually see Jesus suffer and die (and later ascend into heaven!), there's more happening than meets the eye, and Jesus has indicated as much here in advance.**

- 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)
    - **In John 13 - "as I've loved you..."**
    - **In 1 John 3 - "Jesus laid down his life for us"**
  - **Jesus' sacrificial death is the ultimate and defining example of love.**
  - Who we are to love? (1 Jn. 3:16-17)  
**John 13 refers to "one another" and 1 John 3 refer to the "brothers/sisters". These texts emphasize loving fellow disciples of Christ.**
  - How we are to love? (1 Jn. 3:18)  
**In deed and in truth (not just word or talk).**

### ○ 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.

**Leaders' note: The source of our love is the love of Jesus! The result of our love is witness to those who don't yet know Jesus! Carry this renewed reality into the discussion below.**

# 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!  
*Leaders note: 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?  
*Leaders note: This is something that may overlap with the "Apply To Our Story" step in the "GROW" section above, but here it is meant to help narrow down a specific thing that people actually plan to commit to doing.*
- Is there something we as a group should plan to do together based on our discussion?  
*Leaders note: Depending on the applications you've discussed in the "GROW" section, there could be opportunities to serve others as a group.*

**\*\*Our Kids Team could use some help on Tuesday, Oct 31 with their "Trunk or Treat" event. More details at <https://northview.org/events/trunk-or-treat-2/>**

- Is there something we as a group should plan to do to spend time with someone who doesn't yet follow Jesus?  
*Leaders note: Think of the upcoming dates on the calendar like Halloween or Christmas. Is there something you could do to interact with your neighbours, or others who don't have a church home? It doesn't need to be something big or overly "evangelistic".*

**Think: "what are people already engaged in that we could leverage for connection?"**

**For example, regardless of your enthusiasm for "Trick-or-Treating," could your group set up a Hot Chocolate table (or something) in a front yard so you are present in your neighbourhood and could interact with others that evening? Or, could your group do a prayer walk around a neighbourhood that evening?**

**\*\*If there is something you're planning on doing, let us know so our team can be praying for you!\*\***