



Community Group Leaders' Guide: February 24/25, 2024

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

Leaders note: Feel free to take different approaches week to week.

Take 10-15 minutes and map out an approach for your next meeting in advance.

Here's a few examples:

1 - BALANCE GATHER + GROW + GO.

Our hope is that by the end of each semester, you've given attention to all 3 discipleship categories: *Gather*, *Grow*, and *Go*. But you won't be able to do the entirety of each of the 3 sections in 1 meeting. If you want a balanced approach in this meeting, select one or two items from the Gather and Go section in advance, and condense the Grow section (perhaps skip the sermon recap, and prioritize a few things from each step). You can also choose a different order (for example, maybe it works better to start with "grow" and end with "gather" + "go").

2 - EMPHASIZE BIBLE STUDY.

If you want this meeting to have a higher "study" feel, skip the "gather" section, and work through the "grow" section". Then, at minimum, take one thing from the "go" section: *prayer for the lost*.

3 - EMPHASIZE SHARING LIFE.

If you want this meeting to have a higher "relational" feel, work your way through the "gather" section, and leave the "grow" section for this week. But try, at minimum, to take *prayer for the lost* from the "go" section.

You don't have to spend hours preparing like a scholar that "teaches".

You can spend your week a) walking with God to lead out of the overflow of that relationship, and b) taking 15 minutes familiarizing yourself with this guide to be a shepherd that "cares" and "facilitates".

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.

- Pray. Thoughtfully acknowledge God's presence in the room. Commit your time together to him.
Start here. This is an important way to start an organized discussion and calibrate everyone to this 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?

This can be a way to revisit application plans or prayers from a previous group meeting.

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

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.
Leaders note: you could ask another person to do this. A sample prayer: "Father, thank you for this time we have. We acknowledge that you are here with us and we ask for your help to hear what you're saying through your word by your Spirit. We commit our time to you for your glory and our good. Amen."
- **Share a takeaway from the weekend sermon.** Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?
Leaders note: Be sensitive to time by indicating upfront if you plan to move through the other sections of the guide below. It might be helpful to say something like: "we want to start by hearing one thing God highlighted for you in the message, and then in a few minutes we'll move into a short study of the Scripture passage the speaker used."
- **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.

You will hopefully find these simple to answer. They are here to a) highlight some key details that contribute to the questions in the later steps ahead, and/or b) help you look deeper at something that might be easy to miss.

- What do Pilate's soldiers do to Jesus, and what do they say to him in 19:1-3?
 - **They flogged him.**
 - **They put a crown of thorns on his head.**

- **They put a purple robe on him.**
- **They say, "Hail king of the Jews".**
- **They struck him with their hands.**
- According to the Jews in verse 7 how did Jesus break the law?
 - **"has made himself the Son of God"**
- In verses 10-11 what does Jesus say about the authority Pilate has to have Jesus crucified.
 - **"You would have no authority over me unless it was given from above."**
- In verse 14 what day does John say it was right before Jesus was handed over to be crucified?
 - **"The day of Preparation of the Passover."**

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.

We've selected a few connections that are here to a) expand on the content of the passage, and/or b) clarify the content of the passage.

- "...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?
 - **God is the King above kings.**
 - **God is the true ruler of nations.**
 - **Other Psalms declare similar themes of God's sovereignty over kings and nations of the world (Time permitting - Ps. 33:10-11; 47:8; 67:4). It isn't a stretch to imagine Jesus having some of these Psalms in his mind when he revealed to Pilate where he really gets his authority from.**
 - Read Romans 12:1-2. What does Paul say about rulers/governments?
 - **"For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God".**
- "...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?
 - **The blood of the lamb was what would protect them from the plague which God was bringing on Egypt.**
 - 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?
 - **The timing of Jesus' death is profound. For Jesus to be called the "lamb of God" and to be slain at this particular moment, like the lambs in the first passover, points us to see the amazing reality of Jesus as the true Passover Lamb who**

was about to pour out his blood that people's sins would no longer lead to destruction.

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?

We saw in today's text that Jesus is the Passover Lamb. What he was suffering and how he was going to die, was going to take the sins of the world onto himself. This may be a truth that you have come to receive as your own, but it remains a truth we must hold out before our eyes constantly. It is the most powerful evidence we have of the lengths of God's love for us.

- Adoration: Is there a way to incorporate more intentional "praise" towards God this week?
For example: Maybe take 5 mins each day to reflect on Jesus' suffering and thank him for his love for you?
- Confession: Is there something you need to confess to God or "repent" of this week?
For example: In light of God's love and lengths made to forgive you, take time to confess something burdening you with God and maybe even a trusted friend - as a group or outside of it this week - and pray for God's forgiveness and love to refresh you again.
- Supplication: Is there something you feel prompted to "ask" God for this week?
For example: ask the Holy Spirit for help to empower you to offer the sacrificial love of Jesus to someone else you know needs it.

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.
Leaders note: This is something that we're putting deliberately at the top here. Every time. ("5x5x5 cards" are available at each campus on the weekend.)
- 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. Or, perhaps to gather for worship, prayer, and/or equipping together.
- 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?

***Opportunity from our Outreach team:** Diana Madden is head of the Brader Elementary PAC and would love Northview to help with Bradner May Day. It might be a great opportunity for a few community groups to help out at. *From Diana: If you haven't heard of it before, we're celebrating the annual 104th event on Saturday, May 25, 2024... The call is to be in community, reach the next generation, and marketplace. Our event can offer an opportunity for all of that and I would love for nothing more than to be a part of God's work.*

If you'd like to peruse and better understand what volunteering is all about, feel free to check out the links below and contact our Local Outreach Coordinator, Connor, directly to get involved at cbelsher@northview.org

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