



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide: Oct 14/15, 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?
- Facilitate a guided reflection on Scripture. **The primary text from the weekend sermon was John 13:1-17.**
 - **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.

- Describe a time you saw someone behaving in a way that was not suitable (and/or appropriate) for the setting they were in. (Could be anything from parents getting in a fist fight at an elementary sporting event, to someone being obnoxious in a solemn event like a wedding.)
- Quick observations to help insert yourself into the scene:
 - What is the setting of this scene? *When* do these events take place? Look at 13:1-2.
 - The two other characters mentioned by name in this scene are Judas and Peter (2 of Jesus' disciples). He washes *both* of their feet - an action reserved primarily for non-Jewish servants in that culture - but each has a vastly different posture towards Jesus in this room at that moment.
 - What is Peter's attitude initially? (See 13:6-8a).
 - What shifts in Peter's response? (13:8b-9)
 - What does John tell us about the state of Judas' heart (13:2)
 - What did Jesus know about Judas (13:11)?
 - Jesus' actions here are motivated by several things John describes.
 - What is his posture towards his disciples? (13:2)
 - What does he understand about his identity and purpose? (13:3)
- **Step 3: Connect To His Story**

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

- Jesus' actions of "serving" those in the world have an impact.
 - First, they offer us a "share" with Jesus through being "clean". Compare 13:8-11 with 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
 - What language is used to describe the Christian identity in 6:11?
 - What is at stake if Jesus doesn't "clean" people according to 6:9-10?
 - You could also look up Titus 3:4-7 and the Old Testament promises for these realities in Ezekiel 36:26-29, Jeremiah 31:31-34.
 - Is the idea of "cleansing" something you've seen as a common way to understand salvation in Jesus? If not, why do you think this could be?
 - Second, they set an example for us to follow. Compare 13:12-17 with Philippians 2:3-11.
 - What are we supposed to do?
 - Why are we supposed to do this? What motivates us?
- **Step 4: Apply To Our Story**

Ask questions to discern what God is telling us to do with the help of the Holy Spirit.

- Reflect on Jesus' love and humble service further. He washes everyone's feet - including the betrayer in his midst. He makes this a priority in his final moments with them.
 - How could this picture of Jesus help you in conversations with those you know who are struggling to love God? Or with those who have walked away from faith?
 - Who are the last types of people you'd want to serve? Who are those you interact with regularly but honestly have a low desire to serve with Christlike love and humility (you'd probably want to avoid them, not serve them)?
 - What keeps you from following Jesus' example?
 - How does this scene challenge you to think about serving differently?
 - Is there one way you could actually do what Jesus is saying this week?
 - Jesus says we'll be "blessed" by doing what he says (13:17). What do you think that "blessing" looks like? Have you experienced this to be true?

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!
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?
- 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?