



Community Group Guide: Nov 11/12, 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?
- Engage a guided reflection on Scripture. **The primary text from the weekend sermon was John 14:15-31.**

○ 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 promises his disciples a “Helper” ahead of a significant series of events. Share from your life to get a feel for this dynamic in the text (while also helping others get to know you).
 - Describe a time where you would have experienced serious failure or trouble (or embarrassment even!) without someone else coming to help you.
(Could be anything from things like: having someone assist you with a vehicle breakdown, having a skilled athlete join your team, or having a parent come to your rescue.)
- Try to imagine what’s happening in this scene through these observations.
 - What similar things do the 4 verses below say?
 - ...14:15?
 - ...14:21?
 - ...14:23?
 - ...14:31?
 - Jesus’ arrest and death are imminent. What descriptions does Jesus provide about who the “Helper/Advocate” is? (See v.16, v.17, v.26 specifically.)
 - Keep these observations in mind as you proceed to the next 2 steps.

○ Step 3: Connect To God’s Story

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

- Jesus’ promise regarding the Holy Spirit echo Old Testament promises.
 - Look up Ezekiel 36:26-27. How does this prophecy connect to what Jesus says in John 14?
- Following the events of John’s gospel, years later, the apostle Paul would write a letter to the saints in Rome.
 - Look up Romans 8:9-17. How does Paul’s writing expand on or clarify what Jesus is saying in John 14:16-20?
- What you’ve discussed here can shape your thinking in step 4.

○ 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 further on the idea of loving God by keeping his commandments (14:15, 14:23).
 - What do you think about Jesus making such a close tie between loving him and keeping his commandments? In your experience, do people think it is possible to love Jesus and NOT keep his commandments? Why do you people think this is an option?
 - Where or how do you find it challenging to obey God’s commands? What do you think you could do this week to obey him in this specific area or situation?
 - This text contains several profound claims about the realities of God and his relationship with his people. Which statements of Jesus particularly encourage or challenge you?
- Reflect on “peace”. Jesus doesn’t want his disciples’ hearts to be troubled (14:1, 14:27), despite the events that have unfolded and will eventually unfold in later chapters. Reflect further on John 14:1-3 and the promise of having the Holy Spirit.
 - Like the disciples, we’ll have moments that give us cause to be afraid and troubled. If God feels distant or absent for you today, you may resonate with the language Jesus uses of “orphan” (14:18). Orphans have lost someone they may otherwise receive protection, provision, love, care, and close connection with (you may be familiar with this firsthand).

- If this is you today: Are you comfortable sharing why, or in what situations you might be feeling like an orphan?-
- If this isn't you today: How could this text help inform your counsel or encouragement for someone who is feeling like an orphan? How can you encourage them without simply speaking Christian platitudes?
- If this has been you in the past: How have you experienced learning to trust in or recognize the protection and provision of God?

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!
- 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?