



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' 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.

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.

Leaders note: the five bullet points below are valuable things to give attention to every meeting.

We won't adjust this section often.

- Pray. Thoughtfully acknowledge God's presence in the room. Commit your time together to him.
Leaders note: This is a helpful place to start an organized discussion time 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 celebrate these stories, too!
(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 13:1-17.**

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.

- 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.)

Leaders note: You may want to select this question to: a) have an "icebreaker" effect in your group by giving people insight into the lives of one another, while also: b) thinking about a similar dynamic in the text (how is it that the "King" from John 12 is now a "servant" in John 13??).

- 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.

- **Before the "Feast of Passover"**
- **At the "hour" Jesus knew it was time to depart from the world**
- **During supper**

- 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).

13:6 - Initially resistant. After all this is his "Lord" (as he refers to Jesus).

13:7 - ...because he doesn't understand Jesus' actions.

- What shifts in Peter's response? (13:8b-9)

13:8 - He doubles down on resisting, but Jesus explains the importance of his actions.

13:9 - Peter wholeheartedly - and perhaps, exuberantly, receives Jesus' service.

- What does John tell us about the state of Judas' heart (13:2)

13:2 - Satan had put betraying Jesus into his heart

- What did Jesus know about Judas (13:11)?

13:11 - he knew who was to betray him and that he was not "clean

Leaders note: we'll reflect on this posture of "serving one's enemies" further, below.

- Jesus' actions here are motivated by several things John describes.
 - What is his posture towards his disciples? (13:2)
 - **He loved his own, and loved them to the end!**
 - What does he understand about his identity and purpose? (13:3)
 - **He knew the Father had given him all things**
 - **He knew that he had come from God**
 - **He knew that he was returning to God**

○ 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?
 - **We are washed!**
 - **We are sanctified!**
 - **We are justified!**
 - All in the name of Jesus.**
 - What is at stake if Jesus doesn't "clean" people according to 6:9-10?
 - Twice here, we see this haunting reality: people won't inherit the kingdom of God.**
 - 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?
 - Leaders note: In humility, we're to consider others and their interests as a higher priority than our own rather than live lives of selfish ambition or conceit (Phil. 2:3-4).**
 - Why are we supposed to do this? What motivates us?
 - Leaders note: If Jesus - as our "Teacher" and "Lord" (Jn. 13:14) - humbled himself to and took the form of a servant (Phil. 2:7), how ought we to excuse ourselves from doing any different?**

○ 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!

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.

An upcoming event that might be fun to do is register for our Kids Ministry's "Trunk or Treat" event!

*Details at northview.org/kids.**

- 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: Thanksgiving, Halloween, 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?