



## Community Group Guide: January 13/14, 2024

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

# 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.

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- 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 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.

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- **Pray.** Acknowledge God's presence, and ask for his help to hear what he's saying.
- **Share a takeaway from the weekend sermon.** Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?
- **Facilitate a guided reflection on Scripture.** The primary Jan 13/14 sermon text was **Jude 1-25.**

### Start with an "Icebreaker"

This short letter calls the church to contend for the faith amidst the presence of adversity.

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: Describe an unpopular opinion you have that others have ridiculed you for.**

- (For example: "I order a hawaiian pizza just for myself because my family hates pineapple." "I cheered for the Oilers at a Canucks home game." "I think paper straws are better than plastic.")

### 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.

- What are the descriptions of those the letter is written to in verse 1?
- In contrast to the audience, what illustrations does Jude give of the "ungodly" in v. 12-13?
- Jude writes so that we'll "contend for the faith" (v.3) and gives a list of things to "do" to that end in v. 20-23. What do you see listed?
- 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.

- Given our focus this week on "contending for the faith", go further in examining some of the practical ways Jude's letter challenges us.
  - Keep yourselves in God's love - Look up John 15:4-10. This was a recent text in our Gospel of John series. How do we "keep ourselves in God's love according to Jesus in these verses? How does this expand on or clarify what Jude says in v.20-21?

- Save others by snatching them out of the fire - Go to James 5:19-20. How does James explain what it may look like to snatch someone out of the fire?
  - Have mercy on others - Read Colossians 3:5-14. How do Paul's instructions in this text model what it looks like to balance both "fear" and "mercy" as Jude indicates in Jude 22-23?
- This letter has one of the most beautiful "doxologies" that we often use as a word of blessing / benediction today (v.24-25). Amidst the danger of the world, there's a glorious God who acts to preserve his people.
  - Look up Romans 8:18-39. How does this passage expand on Jude's doxology?
- What you've discussed above 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.

- At the start of this new year, where do you feel you are at when it comes to "contending for the faith" amidst the ungodly influences in our world? Which of the commands you've discussed above is the most challenging or convicting to you right now and why?
  - How might God want you to move forward in one of the areas Jude lists in v.20-23 this year?
- Jude's prayer is for mercy, peace, and love to be multiplied in abundance to the church (v.2). How can your group pray for each other along these themes this week?
  - Where is there a need to extend God's mercy in your life?
  - Where is there a need for God's peace in your life?
  - Where is there a need to experience God's love in your life?

# 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.

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- Pray for the "lost" in your sphere of influence. Use the **5x5x5 cards** as a tool.
- 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?  
Consider some upcoming Northview events that might be especially helpful to attend as a group!
  - **Parent Discipleship Night** on January 25: "How To Build Your Kids' Faith" - Register at [northview.org](http://northview.org)
  - **Grief Service** on January 28.
    - Synopsis: "There are various kinds of grief, and for many, this burden is carried in silence. Some have felt the pain of loss for many years. Northview Downes Road is hosting an event for individuals and families who are navigating the challenges of grieving the loss of a loved one, experiencing infertility and for those who have lost a child of any age, including miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth, and infant loss."
- 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?

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