



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide: February 10/11, 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.

- **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 text from this past weekend was **John 18:15-27**.

Start with an "Icebreaker"

In this passage Jesus, the tension rises in the final moments of Jesus' life. We get a window into one of his disciples' experiences alongside his own.

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: What is something that most people wouldn't know about you unless you told them?

- *(For example: It might be a hobby, a rare "fun fact", a "guilty pleasure", or an interest that only those closest to you know. Maybe you secretly play an instrument, maybe you're bi-lingual, maybe you're related to someone famous.)*

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.

- How does Peter respond to the question about him being one of Jesus' disciples? (18:17)
 - How is Jesus treated in this scene? (18:19-24)
 - What do you notice about his response amidst these things? (18:19-24)
 - How does Peter respond to the next two questions? (18:25-27)
- 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.

- 18:27 - "...at once a rooster crowed." John's description here is short in comparison to other gospels. Examine this scene with additional detail:
 - Read Luke 22:31-34. What did Jesus tell Peter - called "Simon" here - in advance of his arrest?
 - Now look at Matthew 26:69-75. What additional information does Matthew's account provide?
- Look up Acts 4:1-13 to see a later part of Peter's life.
 - Who is present according to 4:1 and 4:6?
 - Peter's response to the questions in Acts 4 is different than in John 18. What differences are there in Acts 4:7-13?
- Discuss "denying" Jesus further. Compare Matthew 10:32-33 with 2 Tim 2:11-12.
 - What is the warning in these passages?
 - What is the hope?
- 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.

- It's clear that Peter denies being a disciple in a pressurized, scary setting of opposition. How often we can relate!
 - What are some common reasons we justify hiding our association with Jesus?
 - Is there a difference between hiding our faith vs denying our faith?
 - Where do you feel a need for increased boldness this week? How can we increase our boldness?
- Similar to last week, we've looked at a scene where it may appear that Jesus is not in control. But as we've observed his confidence amidst interrogation (in contrast to Peter's!), Jesus has willingly placed himself in this painful situation.
 - Is there something happening in your life right now that makes it feel like God isn't in control? How can this text encourage your faith and prayers?
 - A sample prayer to pray: *"Jesus, it feels like you aren't doing what I expected you to do. It doesn't look like you're in control of this situation because it's not getting better. Help me to see the story you are writing and the power you have to keep me, like you kept Peter, even in my weakness and doubt."*

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.
- 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? Or to make/strengthen connections with our neighbours?