



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide: March 16/17, 2024

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 19:38-42**.

Start with an "Icebreaker"

In this passage, John tells us about who handled the body of Jesus immediately following his death. We'll discuss this further, 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: If comfortable...As you read this "burial" story, what funeral experience from your own life comes to mind? Who was it for? Did any of your emotions surprise you? (For example, you could describe the first one you attended. Or, you could describe something from these sobering moments that made you feel surprisingly distraught and/or surprisingly comforted?)

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.

- Look at 19:38. Who is the first person described by John who handled Jesus' body after he was taken off the cross? What details do we learn about him?
- Look at 19:39. Who is the second person described by John who handled Jesus' body after he was taken off the cross? What details do we learn about him?
- What did these men do to handle Jesus' body according to 19:39-41?

Keep these observations in mind as you proceed through step 3.

Step 3: Connect To God's Story

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

- Reflect further on Jesus' previous interaction with Nicodemus by reading John 3:1-15.
 - Look specifically at 3:14-15. What had Jesus indicated would happen?
 - To himself?
 - To those who believe?

- In 19:38, John lets us know that Joseph was a "secret" disciple of Jesus and the reason was that he feared the Jews. Other texts in this gospel provide details as to what may have contributed to this fear.
 - Look at the tension in John 7:44-52. In v.47-49, how do the Jewish leaders describe the people who believe in Jesus?

 - Additionally, what detail do we learn about Nicodemus' relationship to the Jewish leaders in 7:50?

 - Read John 12:42-43. What were the Jews doing to people who believed in Jesus?

- Last week's text highlighted the death of Jesus. This week focuses on his burial.
 - Look up Matthew 12:38-40.
 - What were the Jews asking Jesus for?
 - What does Jesus predict?

 - Go to Matthew 27:57-61. What additional information do we get about the tomb Jesus was buried in?

Take these reflections with you into Step 4 below.

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- Are there times you've been a "secret disciple" for fear of others? Describe the circumstances.
 - Follow up question: Has there been a time, like Joseph and Nicodemus faced, that forced you to publicly and visibly demonstrate where you stand?

 - Follow up question: What opportunities might be ahead of you this week to show others that you are a disciple of Jesus?
 - How would you like the group to pray for you as you anticipate those?

- Responding to Jesus in a way that honours him can be costly.
 - What things would you say you have "abandoned" or "given up" for the sake of worshipping or honouring God? What makes these sacrifices easy to do? And/or: what makes them hard to do?

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?
- *Opportunity from our staff team:** Would you be interested in serving together as a group May 9-11 at our Pastors/Elders retreat? We're looking for 10-12 people to help! Email Pastor Jesse for more information!
- 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?

***Opportunity from our Outreach team:** Diana Madden is head of the Brader Elementary PAC and would love Northview to help with Bradner May Day. It might be a great opportunity for a few community groups to help out at. *From Diana: If you haven't heard of it before, we're celebrating the annual 104th event on Saturday, May 25, 2024... The call is to be in community, reach the next generation, and marketplace. Our event can offer an opportunity for all of that and I would love for nothing more than to be a part of God's work.*

If you'd like to peruse and better understand what volunteering is all about, feel free to check out the links below and contact our Local Outreach Coordinator, Connor, directly to get involved at cbelsher@northview.org

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