



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980  
**COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Community Group Guide: February 17/18, 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 text from this past weekend was **John 18:28-40**

## Start with an "Icebreaker"

In this passage, Jesus faces unjust imprisonment and, ultimately, a broken judicial system that fails to protect him, though he is innocent. Of course, this is by design, Jesus knew full well he would not be treated fairly. 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 your favourite story of a hero overthrowing an especially despicable villain?**

(For example, perhaps you really hated the Emperor in *Gladiator*, or really found it satisfying to see *Sid* in *Toy Story* get put in his place, or maybe you recall a particular championship victory of your team over another in a sporting event?)

## 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.

- How does John describe the actions of Jesus' captors once they reach the governor's headquarters?
- What does John say is fulfilled by Jesus' captors delivering Jesus over to Pilate?
- What does Jesus say about his kingdom and the purpose for which he came into the world?
- What questions does Pilate ask Jesus in 18:38? What does Pilate do right after asking it?

## Step 3: Connect To God's Story

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

- "This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die." He has alluded to his death in John 10: 11-17 and John 12:32-34, but in other gospels he is more explicit about the details.
  - Read Mark 10: 32-34, how does Jesus describe what will happen to him that will lead to his death?
  - With these images in mind, return to John 18:28-40. What is remarkable about Jesus' posture and attitude during this interrogation, given that he knows the future?
- "My kingdom is not of this world..." "for this purpose I was born... to bear witness to the truth." The nature of God's kingdom is that it reveals spiritual realities- namely, the sinfulness of people's hearts, Satan's oppression in the world, and people's need for God.
  - Read John 3:1-15.
    - What does Jesus say must happen in order to see the kingdom of God?
    - What does Jesus say people must be born of?
    - What must happen for people to have eternal life, according to these verses? (After reading this, you could also refer to John 1:12-13.)
  - Jesus told Pilate that he came into the world to "bear witness to the truth." In John 14: 6 - 7, what does Jesus reveal about truth, and what does that truth reveal?

#### **Step 4: Apply To Our Story**

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

- In our text, we see the unjust nature of Jesus' prosecution. Pilate himself thinks Jesus is innocent, but doesn't protect him. Jesus' captors would rather see the criminal Barabbas set free instead of Jesus!
  - We likely haven't faced the level of injustice and suffering Jesus faced here. However, is there something in the text that might help you pray or persevere in the midst of an injustice or suffering you are facing?
- In our text, we saw Jesus' understanding of his kingdom. His kingdom is very different from the kingdoms of the world. Jesus' kingdom is experienced by those reborn by water and Spirit, and these born-again people believe in Jesus, and follow his commandments.
- What would it look like for you to live every day of the next week as a citizen of this kingdom? (If you want some ideas, read Colossians 3:1-17 which describes how kingdom citizens should live)!

# 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?
- 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?