



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

**Community Group Guide: April 13/14, 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.

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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?
- **Participate in a guided reflection on Scripture.** The primary text from this weekend's message was **John 21:1-14.**

## Start with an "Icebreaker"

In this passage, Jesus reveals himself a third time to his disciples after rising from the dead. 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: Do you like surprises? Have you ever had a memorable moment of surprise?** (Maybe a birthday party? An answered prayer? A decent sale on a normally more expensive item?)

## 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 term does Jesus use to refer to his disciples in 21:5?
- Compare 21:5 with 21:11. How many fish do they catch before Jesus helps them compared to after?
- What things had Jesus prepared for his disciples' arrival on the beach?
- What term for Jesus is repeated in 21:7 and 21:12?

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.

- “Children” (21:5). While this is a term of familiarity used in this scene, there’s also rich theological significance to what the crucified and risen Jesus has done to make us “children of God.”
  - Go to Hebrews 2:10-15. What things does this passage tell us Jesus has done? How have these things shaped the Christian identity?
  
- “...they were not able to haul it in because of the quantity of fish” (21:6).
  - Read Luke 5:1-11. What is the result of the disciples following Jesus’ fishing instructions here?
  - Now look up John 15:6. What does Jesus say they can accomplish here?
  
- “...come and have breakfast” (21:12)
  - Look up James 1:17. How is God described here? What does he give?
  - Read Philippians 4:19. How does Paul encourage the church here? What does he tell them God will do.

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.

- Like the disciples, we may find ourselves working / toiling for something and not finding success.
  - Is there some project or goal you could involve God more intentionally in? How?
  
- The way Jesus (again) serves and provides for the disciples is a practical example of his love for them.
  - We sometimes view God like he’s a distant employer (checking in once in a while to monitor the work he gave us to do). Is there something about this picture of Jesus that is comforting or encouraging to you today?
    - Follow up question: does this text encourage you to pray differently about something going on in your life or someone else’s?
  
- The “Lord” is revealed to the disciples a third time after the shocking events of Jesus’ crucifixion and the surprising events of his resurrection. Take some time to pray for God to reveal himself to those you know that haven’t made Jesus their “Lord”. (See first bullet in the “GO” section below.)

# 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?