



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

**Community Group Guide: April 20/21 + 27/28, 2024**

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

**The next 2 weekends at Northview are unique, and our Community Group guides will match this:**

**WEEKEND #1 - BAPTISM AT DOWNES/MISSION + JOHN 21:15-25 AT CENTRAL/EAST**

This is what is happening April 20 and April 21.

**WEEKEND #2 - JOHN 21:15-25 AT DOWNES/MISSION + BAPTISM AT CENTRAL/EAST**

This is what is happening April 27 and April 28.

Below, you'll see we've got 1 Guide, with 2 the usual gather, grow, and go sections PLUS an additional special section at the bottom for a unique Community Group Discussion about Baptism! Our recommendation is to match your group's conversation based on the campus you attend.

*(For example, if you're at Downes Road Campus you could discuss the baptism section following April 20/21 and then use the John study in the "Grow" section following April 27/28.)*

# BAPTISM

**A practice of deeply rooted followers of Jesus.**

This special group guide is meant to have you talk through your own experiences with baptism, on the week after you attended a Northview service - which taught on and celebrated baptism.

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- **Pray.** Acknowledge God's presence, and ask for his help to reflect well together.
- **Share a takeaway from the baptism weekend.** Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?
- **Share your personal experience with baptism.** Have you been baptized?
  - If yes, describe what it was like! (When/where? Who baptized you? How has that moment impacted your relationship with Jesus?)
  - If not, why not? (If willing, please share some of the reasons or causes that have prevented you.)
- **Expand on your life story/testimony.** These 4 questions are ones we ask to people being - baptized and can help you get to know one another deeper, and reflect on God's goodness in your life!
  - **Before becoming a disciple of Jesus:** How or where did you first learn about God? Was it from your family, or from friends or..? (Describe formative influences.)
  - **Becoming a disciple of Jesus:** When did you realize you were a sinner in need of a saviour, and that Jesus is the only one who could save you? (Is there a key memory of giving your life to Jesus?)
  - **Living as a disciple of Jesus:** How are you responding to Jesus right now? (You could describe one or several of these types of things: What are you learning? How are you growing? What is challenging?)
- **Pray for those who aren't (yet) Christians.** Baptism is a sign of new life in Jesus (Romans 6:3-4). Since the birth of the church, people repent, believe, and are baptized at the start of the Christian life (Acts 2:38-42). Who do you know that hasn't been baptized because they haven't yet "repented and believed" in Jesus? How can you pray for them today as a group?

# 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 final text in our Gospel of John teaching series was **John 21:15-25.**

## Start with an "Icebreaker"

In this passage, John records a personal conversation Jesus has with Peter. 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: What is a mess you've been in that required help to clean up or fix?** (Could be something you got help for or gave help for. For example, spilled something in a grocery store? Got your vehicle stuck in a snow drift? Something from the big flood in the Fraser Valley in November 2021?)

## 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.

- In 21:15-17...
  - What question does Jesus ask Peter 3 times?
  - How does Peter respond each time?
  - What does Jesus say after Peter's response each time?
- What repeated command does Jesus give Peter in both 21:19 and 21:22?
- John's final line indicates that Jesus did many things. What does John say would be required if every one of them were to be written down?

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.

- "Do you love me?" Jesus restores Peter after Peter's denial and despair. Look further into God's response to our failures.
  - Read 1 John 1:9. How does God respond when we confess our sin to him?
  
- "Feed my sheep" (21:17). This is shepherding language with rich history and meaning.
  - Read Psalm 100:3. How does this verse describe God's people?
  - Look up Jeremiah 3:15.
    - What type of leaders does God promise he will provide his people?
    - How does God intend for them to lead?
  - Read 1 Peter 5:1-4.
    - What does Peter command the elders of the church to do in 5:2-3?
    - Who does Peter say will appear and give the elders a crown of glory in 5:4?

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 Peter, we may find ourselves having failed in our faith in some way. But, Jesus forgives and restores those who love him - to the point of making Peter a leader in the church (as we saw above).
  - Can you describe a way in which you've experienced God's grace similar to Peter?
  - Many people feel they've done too much wrong to be accepted or loved by God. How can we help them understand God's grace?
  
- Here, at the end of John, you could also reflect on the whole book! John states that Jesus did many other things, but the things that he did write were to help us believe and find life in Jesus (John 20:31).
  - How has God used the Gospel of John in your life recently? (Could be a new insight about Jesus, could be a takeaway from a specific sermon or Community Group Discussion)
  - You could also pray that God would help you, like Peter and John in this text, to "follow" Jesus regardless of how good or challenging life ahead may be.

# 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?