



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide: March 9/10, 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?
- **Participate in a guided reflection on Scripture.** The text from this past weekend was **John 19:31-37**

Start with an "Icebreaker"

In this passage, John gives eyewitness testimony of what happened to Jesus and provides a window into why it matters. 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: Is there someone who testified to you about Jesus (through their words and actions), and helped you believe that Jesus is worth trusting? (Perhaps someone who has lived experience following Jesus and led you to see how Christianity "makes sense" or "makes a difference".)

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.

- When does this scene take place according to 19:31?
- What physical details about Jesus does John provide in this passage?
- What does John hope happens to his readers according to 19:35?

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.

- We are nearing the end of the gospel of John. What did he previously tell us, using the words of another John (the Baptist) in 1:29, about Jesus?
 - In light of this, consider further 19:36: "Not one of his bones will be broken."
 - Several Old Testament texts demonstrate the significance of this Scripture being fulfilled. For example, read Exodus 12:45 and Numbers 9:12. Whose bones aren't to be broken in these verses? How do these instructions relate to Jesus?
 - 19:36 refers to Psalm 34:20. What type of person is the Psalm referring to according to Psalm 34:19-22? What are God's actions?
- Look again at 19:37 - "...They will look on him whom they have pierced."
 - Look up Zechariah 12:10, which is quoted here. What does God do here and how did Zechariah anticipate the people would respond?
 - Often when a biblical writer is quoting a single verse, they are trying to remind people of the larger story in which that verse sits (its "context"). With this in mind, what does Zechariah say happened after they "look on him whom they have pierced" in Zechariah 13:1?
 - How does Isaiah 53:5 help us further understand the significance of the "piercing"?
- "...his testimony is true..."
 - In 19:35, John gives us his personal perspective as one of the gospel writers. Check out Luke 1:1-4. What do they have in common?

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.

- If someone asked you: "why did Jesus have to die?", what would you tell them?
 - Has this brief study helped shape your response? How?
- Who do you know that doesn't think Christianity makes sense? Describe your interactions with them.
 - Follow up question: Is there something from today's text/discussion that bolsters your conviction in the credibility of Christianity?
 - Follow up action, as pointed to in the "Go" section: pray for those who haven't yet "believed" as John would desire. Pray for opportunities to share, and clarity to explain the hope you have!
- God's perfect plan came to pass. Use this template for prayer that this masterpiece never gets old and works its way into our everyday lives more frequently.

- Adoration: Is there a way to incorporate more intentional “praise” towards God this week?
- Confession: Is there something you need to confess to God or “repent” of this week?
- Supplication: Is there something you feel prompted to “ask” God for this week?

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?