



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

**Community Group Guide: May 4/5, 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 primary text on our "Multiplication Weekend" was **Matthew 9:35-10:42.** (A longer one than usual!)

## Start with an "Icebreaker"

In this passage, Matthew records Jesus teaching the disciples about their mission and is honest about the persecution and pitfalls they will face. 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 instructions were difficult when you were younger that you've appreciated more now that you are older?** (Possible examples: Saving money? Generosity? Brushing your teeth? Showering? Going to bed on time?)

## 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 9:37 what issue does Jesus see?
  - What is his solution in 9:38?
- What warnings does Jesus give his disciples in...
  - 10:16?
  - 10:22?
  - 10:25?
  - 10:37-39?
- What encouragements does Jesus give his disciples in...
  - 10:19-20?
  - 10:22?
  - 10:39?

### Step 3: Connect To God's Story

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

- In 9:37-38 Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." Later, he expands on this mission. Read Matt 28:19-20.
  - Who does Jesus say he is sending his disciples out to? (How big are the fields that are ripe for harvest?)
  - What is the "work" / "labour" he is giving to his disciples?
- In our passage, Jesus warns his disciples about coming persecution, and we observe some of the comfort he offers in times of persecution. Look up Romans 8:35-39 and see how Paul understands the comfort we have in Jesus for hard times.
  - Paul asks the following question, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (8:35) What examples does he give of things that could threaten our connection to his love?
  - How does Paul answer the question of 8:35 in 8:37-39? (How can we be confident that nothing will ever come between us and the love of Christ?)
- In our passage, Jesus talks about his disciples "picking up their cross" (10:38-39). This language is repeated later in Matthew 16:24-27 and adds some additional insight into what he means. Compare the two texts. What additional details do we learn from Matt 16:24-27?

### 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 passage, Jesus gives some pretty solemn warnings to his disciples, ranging from warnings about what others will do to them to warnings about pitfalls they themselves can fall into. Let's take some time to reflect on this.
  - Like the disciples, we may need to hear these warnings so we don't get caught unprepared. What warning resonates most deeply with you from Jesus' teaching? (Eg. Warning of persecution, loving others more than Jesus, not picking up your cross, or finally, trying to find life from the world and not in Jesus)
- In the midst of the warnings, Jesus also teaches his disciples about the mission he is including them in. He uses the image of a plentiful harvest to illustrate the need for workers to go out and harvest. We read that the harvest includes people from all nations and involves making disciples. Jesus, as we have seen, is honest about the difficulties mixed in with our mission. Jesus also offers encouragement, as well as people like Paul, whom we looked at.
  - What encouragement will you hold onto this week from the discussion and why? (e.g. The disciples won't be left alone but will have the Holy Spirit, those who endure will be saved, and we are conquerors in Christ and can never be separated from his love)

# 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?