



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

**Community Group Leaders' Guide – April 20/21 + April 27/28, 2024**

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

**LEADERS!**

**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?  
**Leaders note: This could be something from either a testimony or from the sermon that was preached.**
- **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.  
**Start here. This is an important way to start an organized discussion and calibrate everyone to this reality.**
- 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?

**This can be a way to revisit application plans or prayers from a previous group meeting.**

**We'd love to share and celebrate stories from our Community Groups to honour God and encourage one another!  
(Please get permission to pass them on to us as regularly as possible.)**

# 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.  
**Leaders note: you could ask another person to do this. A sample prayer: "Father, thank you for this time we have. We acknowledge that you are here with us and we ask for your help to hear what you're saying through your word by your Spirit. We commit our time to you for your glory and our good. Amen."**
- **Share a takeaway from the weekend sermon.** Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?  
**Leaders note: Be sensitive to time by indicating upfront if you plan to move through the other sections of the guide below. It might be helpful to say something like: "we want to start by hearing one thing God highlighted for you in the message, and then in a few minutes we'll move into a short study of the Scripture passage the speaker used."**
- **Facilitate 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.

**You will hopefully find these simple to answer. They are here to a) highlight some key details that contribute to the questions in the later steps ahead, and/or b) help you look deeper at something that might be easy to miss.**

- In 21:15-17...

- What question does Jesus ask Peter 3 times?
  - **Do you love me?**
- How does Peter respond each time?
  - **Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.**
- What does Jesus say after Peter's response each time?
  - **Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep.**
- What repeated command does Jesus give Peter in both 21:19 and 21:22?
  - **Follow me!**
- 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?
  - **In the NIV:" the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."**

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've selected a few connections that are here to a) expand on the content of the passage, and/or b) clarify the content of the passage.**

- "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?
    - **He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us!**
- "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?
    - **We are made by God, we belong to God, we are his "sheep"**
  - Look up Jeremiah 3:15.
    - What type of leaders does God promise he will provide his people?
      - **Shepherds after his own heart.**
    - How does God intend for them to lead?
      - **With knowledge and understanding.**
  - Read 1 Peter 5:1-4.
    - What does Peter command the elders of the church to do in 5:2-3?
      - **"Shepherd" the "flock" among you. (Note the specifics on how this looks in these verses - willingly, not for gain, being an example)**

- **Leaders note: we selected this question to show you how Peter later went on to do what Jesus asked him in John 21, and also called others to do the same!**
- o Who does Peter say will appear and give the elders a crown of glory in 5:4?
  - **The Chief Shepherd (Jesus!)**
  - **Leaders note: Jesus had told Peter and the disciples that he is the good shepherd (see John 10) and the witness of the New Testament is consistently that Jesus is the great shepherd of the sheep, and that he appoints under-shepherds to provide oversight and care for his flock.**

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.

- o 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?
    - **Leaders note: lots you could say here, but from this text we can find hope that even someone who made many mistakes, broke his word to Jesus, denied he knew Jesus 3 times, is met with compassion. Additionally, most people in Scripture have their sin on display and experienced God's grace. Even our "heroes" like Moses, David, and Paul. But overall, we can find encouragement when we understand the biblical story!**
- o 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.

**Leaders note: This is something that we're putting deliberately at the top here. Every time.**

**("5x5x5 cards" are available at each campus on the weekend.)**

**Note: We'll be hosting "Alpha" starting April 22. Is there someone from your life you could bring?**

- Is there something that seems especially relevant for us to do personally based on our discussion?

**Leaders note: This is something that may overlap with the "Apply To Our Story" step in the "GROW" section above, but here it is meant to help narrow down a specific thing that people actually plan to commit to doing.**

- Is there something we as a group should plan to do together based on our discussion?

**Leaders note: Depending on the applications you've discussed in the "GROW" section, there could be opportunities to serve others as a group. Or, perhaps to gather for worship, prayer, and/or equipping together.**

- 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?

**Leaders note: Our Local Outreach team has an opportunity with the "Bradner May Day" Breakfast on May 25.**

**Details here: <http://www.bradnermayday.com/>**

**Signup to serve here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA9AC2CA3F8C34-48919424-2024#/>**