



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide – May 11/12, 2024

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

THIS GUIDE WILL BE DIFFERENT FOR THE NEXT MONTH. (“REBUILD” SERIES NOTE)

Following our series in the Gospel of John, we are now shifting into a “topical” weekend sermon series.

Typically, our sermons aim to be more “exegetical” (teaching through a book of the Bible verse by verse), than “topical” (using biblical principles and texts to speak to themes in life and culture). As such, our Group Guides

Typically our Group Guides follow a specific 4 step framework for discussing scripture. But alongside this atypical style of sermons, we’ve adjusted the “Grow” section of the guide to be far less thorough in interacting with one primary passage of verses in the text and more “thematic” in nature (like the sermons themselves).

Give it a try and/or emphasize the “Gather” or “Go” sections more than usual!

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.

- 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 shape a biblical view on a specific topic.

- **Pray.** Acknowledge God's presence, and ask for his help to hear what he's saying.
- **Facilitate a guided reflection on the topic and scriptures from the weekend sermon.**

Reflect on the topic together.

- As we look at our culture at large - discuss life in Abbotsford/Mission/Fraser Valley and/or Canada.
 - What brings you great joy as you think of the opportunities in front of us in this great place we call home? What do you love most about living here?

- What causes you sorrow, or brings you to tears as you think about our homeland? What are the key spiritual concerns you have?

Look at some key biblical texts and how they interact with the topic.

- Take some time to read through the promises of Isaiah (which were given in advance of Israel's exile from their homeland which was experienced as a result of their ongoing rebellion against God):: Have someone read out loud - Isaiah 54:10; Isaiah 56:7; Isaiah 58:11-12; Isaiah 59:1-2; Isaiah 61:1-4; Isaiah 62:4 & Isaiah 62:6-7.
 - What promises stand out to you? What confidence and joy do you have as you look to the promise of God to His people?
 - Is there some action in these texts that you sense the Holy Spirit is calling you to take to speak into this time and place we've been given?
- Read 2 Chronicles 6:12-7:3 in its entirety.
 - Consider the context, that these warnings are given at one of the greatest celebration days in Israel's history: the dedication of Solomon's temple.
 - What recurring themes, promises, warnings and/or hope do you hear in this text?
 - As you reflect on the state of Canadian culture today, are there warnings from this passage that you feel apply to us today?

Pray together and/or move to the "GO" section below.

- What does God want to accomplish through new church plants and new facilities?¹
 - Take some time to pray about the needs our church planting partners are facing in finding buildings where they can worship and equip God's people. See current list of partnerships in Canada here: <https://northview.org/church-planting/>
 - Will you pray about the part God would have you play in the next phase of building and fund-raising at Northview? More details here: <https://northview.org/all-in/>
 - Will you pray about those people you know & love who are far from God who might fill the new seats in our new facility when they are ready!?! (Pray by name, and/or with your 5x5x5 cards.)
- Where is God giving you open doors to love others and speak for Him?
 - Thank God for the freedoms we have.
 - Pray for each other for...
 - Opportunities.
 - For eyes to see those opportunities.

¹ Note from Pastor Mark: We are not in the real estate or building development "business" but the "people-building business" YET we need buildings to accomplish our ministry goals. You are very well aware of the high cost of personal real estate - each of you pay rent or mortgages - you understand the challenges we face in this expensive climate. However, have you ever taken time to consider the challenges for new and/or growing churches as we seek to minister to as many new people as God might bring our way? Each new church plant we are privileged to partner with will inevitably face the very real question - "Where will we meet?"

- And for boldness to speak when the opportunities come!

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?

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#/>