



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide – May 18/19, 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.

- Was there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you in the sermon you heard?
- Keep in mind the biblical timeline ahead of the discussion.
 - 950 BC Solomon's temple was dedicated (2 Chronicles 7)
 - Solomon's prayer anticipated the faithlessness of God's people (A Great Unravelling).
 - 586 BC Jerusalem was destroyed

- 538 BC Cyrus makes decree to rebuild - Zerubbabel leads the return and rebuild
- 516 BC the temple is finally finished
- 458 BC Ezra returns and start spiritual reform
- 445 BC Nehemiah returns to build walls and continue reforms

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

- Read 2 Chronicles 7:11-18 and remind yourself of The Great Promise given to the people. Talk through the implications of this text.
 - When have you seen the people of God willing to pursue this kind of prayer?
 - What circumstances, either personally or nationally, have led to this kind of prayer?
- The focus of 2 Chronicles 7:14 is on “My People - called by My Name”. Tim Keller says there are four stages to every historic revival:
 - 1 Sleepy Christians wake up.
 - 2 Nominal Christians actually get saved.
 - 3 The lost are evangelized and awakening happens.
 - 4 The city, the region, the nation is transformed.
 - Most often when we think about and/or talk about revival (as believers) we want to run ahead to stages 3 & 4 without doing the deep work required in stage 1 & 2.
 - Why do you think that is?
 - What can we do to foster a willingness and a posture for God to do a new work in us? As you think of your own life, Northview, or Canada as a whole - how might we foster revival?
- The sermon also looked at the Old Testament book of Ezra, and “Gospel Patrons” was the language Pastor Mark used to describe the partnership between wealthy and/or influential people who catalyzed gospel movements in history.¹
 - Ezra 1-6 tells us the rebuild story of the temple, but significantly, the spiritual “hero” of the book (Ezra) is not even on site yet! The first wave of the rebuild is led by the so-called “laity” - Zerubbabel was clearly a man on a mission, sent by God, but was not in “full-time ministry.”
 - Look up some New Testament examples of “gospel patrons” in Romans 16:1-2; Luke 8:1-3; & Acts 16:11-15. What do you notice about these people and the impact they had on gospel ministry?
 - The texts above show the providence of God in raising up godly patrons for gospel advance. Is there anyone who has inspired you? Someone who had great influence in advancing the gospel in your life or in a movement in history?

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

¹ For example, without Prince Frederick - “The Wise” - Martin Luther’s German bible would never have been translated. Or Without Humphrey Monmouth - William Tyndale’s English translation would never have happened.

- Read and reflect on Colossians 3:23-24; Matthew 5:13-16; and Ephesians 4:11-12 as springboards for prayer.
 - As you go to prayer for each other, ask that God would help you realize the many open doors for kingdom influence you have.
 - Pray especially for individuals who may be facing opposition in the marketplace and also pray for people you know and love who are showing interest in spiritual things.
 - As we press into the thematic study “REBUILD”, ask the Lord to reveal areas in our own lives that need a touch from the Spirit of God.
 - What work of restoration, repentance, and renewal needs to happen in your life? (If you know it, ask for it! If you don’t know, ask God to highlight it for you!)

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?