



Community Group Guide – June 15/16, 2024

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

THIS GUIDE WILL BE DIFFERENT THAN USUAL DURING THE “REBUILD” SERIES.

The last few weeks we’ve been in 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 will be unique for 2 more weeks!

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).

Don’t feel pressure to cover everything, but prayerfully consider what would work best for your group!

NOTE FROM PASTOR MARK:

Last weekend we talked about our sexual purity and how our family structures are changed by an encounter with the living God. It was an intimate and challenging conversation. This weekend we looked at another critical area of our discipleship, and one that for some people, is even more challenging than our sexuality: Money.

Jesus made an astounding promise to us in the Sermon on the Mount - that if we would put His kingdom first in our lives - He would promise to give us everything we need (Mt. 6:19-33). No reason to be anxious or worried about money! Wow, what a promise and challenge that is!

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: When God Sets Out to Renew His People - He Touches Every Idol - Including Money

- Why do you think "money" sermons tend to be received so poorly in the church?
 - *Optional follow up:* There is a reputation "out there" that all the church wants (or all we talk about) is money. Have you heard this? How do you respond? (Be honest - the preacher isn't here!)

- Where did you learn to give? Did your parents teach or model generosity to you? How was money talked about in your home as a kid? Many people say their parents “fought about money” - what was your story?
 - *Optional follow up:* If there is someone in your group willing to share their personal journey of learning the principle of tithing...of bringing God’s portion consistently back to the house of God...have them share their story. What have you learned? How has God shown Himself faithful? What blessings have you experienced? How has it changed your focus?
- How much of your “money management” skills were learned from the Bible, and how many did you just pick up along the way?
 - *Optional expansion to the question:* What did you learn and from whom, about the value of hard work, giving, saving, spending, investing and how to handle debt? Who were the examples you looked to?

Looking to Scripture.

- Open Malachi & Haggai. They are contemporaries – just separated by a few short years.
 - Read Haggai 1:3-6 (ever had this experience!? There are holes in my wallet!)
 - Read also Malachi 1:6-14 & 3:7-11. This is the ONLY time we are told to put God to the test. Notice the promise that follows – I’ll open the heavens of blessing over your life. Why is it so hard for us to believe this?
- Talk about the principles of giving God “our first” and “our best.” Use these scriptures to shape that conversation.
 - Old Testament: Exodus 23:19; Nehemiah 10:35
 - New Testament: 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Philippians 4:11-13 + 4:18-19.
- 2 Corinthians 8:9 & 1 Peter 1:18-19 talk about the ultimate price/gift that Jesus paid for our salvation. How does the generosity of the gospel impact your view of finances?
 - *Potential follow up question:* Go to Deuteronomy 8:1-2; 11-19. When you prosper (and you will) don’t forget me! How do you think this applies to us today? (Remember that WE are the world’s wealthy!) How thankful – how grateful – how generous – how “full of memory” should we be?

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

- Pray we would all learn the joy of trusting God for His abundant supply! Use Matthew 6:25-33 as a guide for prayer (what things in this text do you need God’s help to know / do?).
- Pray that Northview would continue to cultivate a spirit of generosity and support for kingdom work!
- Pray for families in our church and community that are facing challenging financial times.
 - That God would provide from his glorious riches.
 - That they would be disciplined to build their financial lives “God’s way.”

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?