



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' Guide – Sept 28/29, 2024

This guide is designed to help you and your group be **deeply rooted followers of Jesus**.¹

You can take different approaches week to week - plan for your next meeting in advance.

IDEA #1 - BALANCE GATHER + GROW + GO.

The healthiest groups will give attention to all 3 discipleship categories: *Gather*, *Grow*, and *Go*.

You can't cover each of the 3 sections fully in 1 meeting. For balance, select one or two items from the *Gather* and *Go* sections in advance, and condense the *Grow* section (perhaps just do the sermon recap).

You can also choose a different order (e.g., start in "grow", then hit "gather" + "go").

IDEA #2 - EMPHASIZE BIBLE STUDY.

Want a deeper "study" feel? Skip the "gather" section, and work through the "grow" section". Then, at minimum, take one thing from the "go" section: *prayer for the lost*.

IDEA #3 - EMPHASIZE SHARING LIFE.

Want a higher "relational" feel? Work your way through the "gather" section, and leave the "grow" section for this week. But try, at minimum, to take *prayer for the lost* from the "go" section.

You don't have to spend hours preparing like a scholar that "teaches".

You can spend your week a) walking with God to lead out of the overflow of that relationship, and b) taking 15 minutes familiarizing yourself with this guide to be a well-prepared shepherd that "cares" and "facilitates".

¹ If you don't know your group very well, we recommend starting with our "First Four" discussion guide before this one.

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.

- "Let's start with prayer."
Thoughtfully acknowledge God's presence in the room. Commit your time to him. Start by calibrating everyone to this reality. Could be one person that opens your time in this way, or several.
- What is one thing you're really grateful for right now? Take turns and share one by one.
- Does anyone have a story of where you've seen God at work? Is there a life situation or answered prayer we can join you in celebrating? (This can be a way to revisit prayers or plans from a previous meeting.)
We'd love to share and celebrate stories from our Community Groups to honour God, encourage one another, and contribute to cultivating a culture of prayer across Northview! (With permission, share them with us!)
- What is one thing you're really burdened with right now? If comfortable, take turns and share one by one.
Idea: be specific. "Is there a practical need or decision you're facing that you'd like the group's help with?"
- What are you praying about right now? How can we join you thanking God or seeking God?
Idea: get one person to share, and then get one person to volunteer to pray for them. Repeat this process until everyone is covered.
- End with prayer, or move to the Grow and/or Go sections in the pages below.

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.

- **Pray.** Acknowledge God's presence + ask for his help to hear what he's saying through the text.
Idea: 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 Sept 28/29 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
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 brief study of 1 Corinthians 1:18-31.**

Start the conversation with an "Icebreaker."

In this passage, Paul's words to the Corinthians teach about the wisdom and power of the gospel message - in contrast to what the world might believe it to be.

Share from your life to get a feel for this dynamic in the text (while also helping others get to know one another) by using this **Icebreaker question: What is a "first impression" you got completely wrong?**

(Possible examples: you misjudged the quality of something you purchased, a movie you went to the theatre for, a new type of food you tried, etc. "I thought it would be _____, but it turned out to be _____!")

Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31.

Familiarize yourself with this section of verses.

Study Step 2: Understand Their Story – (With answer key + leaders notes)

Ask *observation questions* to understand what the author is communicating to the original audience.

- **Look at 1:18-25.**
 - 1:18 - The "word of the cross" has 2 different reactions. What are they? Who has them?
"Foolishness to those who are perishing," and "the power of God" to those who are being saved.
 - 1:23 - What is the content of Paul's preaching?
"Christ crucified."

- What response do the Jews have? **It's a stumbling block.**
- What about the Greeks? **It's folly.**
- 1:24 - How is Jesus described in this passage?
Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. (Are these descriptions we often associate with Jesus??)
- *Reflect on these observations: have you seen negativity towards the "word of the cross" in your life today? Where? How do the reactions you see overlap with what's described in 1:18-25?*
- **Look at 1:26-30.**
 - What was the starting point for the Corinthian church?
Lowly. Not wise, influential/powerful, or of noble birth.
 - What did God do?
He shames the wise and shames the strong by choosing the foolish, weak, lowly.
 - What was the new description of the Corinthian church?
They are "in Christ" who has become their wisdom, righteousness and sanctification and redemption. (This is no small list!)
 - *Reflect on these observations: why does Paul think that boasting has no place? How do you think people fall into the trap of false pride?*

Study Step 3: Connect To God's Story – (With answer key + leaders notes)

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.

- Paul describes how the message of the cross was perceived as foolishness. A messiah was hoped to be a conquering ruler. Look up Matthew 27:27-36. What do you see in Matthew's account that would explain why the Jews and Greeks might respond to a "crucified Christ" the way that they do?
Leaders: There's lots you could observe here. He's despised, tortured, publicly mocked and humiliated. This text describes some of those specifics. The "cross" is a fairly tame symbol today, but back then, sheer horror - not remotely something a messiah would be associated with, let alone killed on.
- 1 Corinthians 1:19 quotes Isaiah 29:14. And 1 Corinthians 1:31 quotes Jeremiah 9:23-24. Read these two Old Testament texts out loud and then reflect.
 - What problems do these texts show that humanity is vulnerable to?
**False or inauthentic worship.
Trusting and boasting in the earthly qualities and possessions we have. (Apparently this has always been a struggle for humans - Old Testament, and New.)**
 - What is God's desire in these passages?
**For wholehearted worship.
For people to know him.**
- Now look to Romans 1:14-16 for how Jesus addresses this problem.
 - Who is the gospel for?

For all! Jew *and* Gentile. Wise *and* foolish. (God isn't excluding anyone.)

- How does Paul describe what the gospel is and what the gospel does here?
It's the power of God for salvation! (Again, it's powerful!)
- How do people experience the gospel's benefits?
Belief! Nothing we earn or manufacture. (Again, no cause for boasting!)

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

Ask questions to discern what God is telling us to do with the help of the Holy Spirit.

- Paul acknowledges and responds to the incorrect perception that the gospel is foolish or powerless. But, we might believe that at times. Is there a part of the gospel that seems insufficient for the people you want to know Jesus? What is it?
 - What in this text gives the right/better perspective of our message?
- In 1:26, Paul encourages the Corinthians to "consider" their calling. What are the dangers of forgetting the transformation God has brought in our lives?
 - Is there something you've found to be helpful to be less forgetful?
- In 1:31 the Corinthians are encouraged to "boast in the Lord." This is a call to find renewed/correct confidence in the gospel. Such confidence ought to lead us to more deeply love God personally and also share him publicly. What from this text challenges and/or helps you when it comes to sharing your faith with others?

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 those far from God that you personally know, by name.

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, and our "Loving The Lost" group prayer guide is attached to our weekly group leader email.)

- 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.

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- 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?

IDEA: Northview Kids is running ["Trunk or Treat"](#) on October 31, and could use some help!

- **Donate Candy! Bring peanut free, individually wrapped candies to Northview Kids on the weekend or to office reception during office hours (M-F | 8:30-4:30)!**
- **Decorate your Car! We are looking for people to sign up to decorate their car and hand out candy as kids go car-to-car trick or treating!**
- **Dress Up! Come in a costume and with a bag to go car-to-car trick or treating!**
- **Invite your Neighbours! This is an opportunity to bring our Northview Kids Families and Communities together to bless our Northview neighbours.**