



EST. NORTHVIEW 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' Guide – October 5/6, 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 Oct 5/6 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
For each person to share an insight they got or an action step they are taking from the sermon could use up your time. This might be a good use of your time, but if you want to go further into the study of the text below, indicate this upfront.
- **Facilitate a brief study of 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.**

Start the conversation with an "Icebreaker."

In this passage, Paul's words to the Corinthians show what he believes good preaching can 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's the most impactful sermon you've heard? (Why is it memorable? How did God use it in your life?)**

Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

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 2:1-5.**
 - 2:1-4 - Paul describes his approach to ministry.
 - What things did *not* describe his preaching?
 - **Lofty speech / eloquence; human wisdom (2:1)**
 - **No plausible / wise + persuasive words (2:4)**
 - What things *did* describe his preaching?
 - **He decided to know nothing except "Christ crucified" (2:2)**
 - **He came in weakness and fear and trembling (2:3)**
 - **His message came with a demonstration of the power of the Spirit (2:4)**

- 2:5 - Paul gives his reason for his approach. What is it?
He wanted their faith to rest in God's power, not man's wisdom!
- *Reflect on these observations: Is Paul advocating for preaching truth in a boring way?*

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.

- The argument Paul is making in Chapters 1-4 of 1 Corinthians is in response to the immaturity and division he sees in the church. They are driven along by the fact that the Corinthians are still being so affected by the cultural norms around them.
 - Read **1 Corinthians 1:11-13**. What was the problem Paul described?
People rallied around the cult of personality - Apollos, Cephas, etc.
 - Read **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**. What was the experience of preaching the gospel in the Corinthian context?
People evaluated the message by worldly standards. It appeared weak and foolish.
- The New Testament demonstrates that God uses the preaching of his word as a method for transforming people's lives. Look up **Acts 2:36-41** for another example of gospel preaching.
 - What is the content of Peter's message?
**The crucified Jesus is both Lord and Messiah!
So, repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins.
Receive the Spirit.**
 - What is the result of Peter's preaching?
**The people were "cut to the heart" (2:37)
Thousands were added to the church (2:41)**
- Paul also encouraged a younger leader, Timothy, in his ministry. Look up 2 Timothy 4:1-5.
 - What are his instructions in 4:2 and 4:5?
**Preach the word!
Be sober-minded, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**
 - Why does he give these instructions?
**We live in the presence of God, and Jesus - the judge - is coming again.
People will not always endure faithful teaching and end up wandering.**
- *Reflect on these texts. How do you think God evaluates whether a ministry is effective / good?*
- Take these observations and reflections with you to the next step.

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- Is there something you could do to get more out of a message, regardless of the charisma or communication skills of a preacher?
 - Share what's helped you in the past. (And/or share what you'd like to try next weekend!)
Leaders: this is where you could have people encourage one another to be more intentional when they are in teaching environments. (Do you use a hardcopy Bible? Are there distractions - like cell phone notifications - you can eliminate? Could you engage more of your senses - sit closer to the front? Take notes to follow along? Etc.)

- Paul desired for the Corinthians to have their faith rest in the correct source: the power of God.
 - Discuss "evangelism" strategies you've seen. Do you see an emphasis on human wisdom or on the power of God? How can you tell?

 - What are the pitfalls of our faith resting in human wisdom? Have you seen these dangers cause damage?
Leaders: It's been said "what you win people *with* is what you win people *to*". So, for example, if people come to the Christian faith because they've been "won" to Christ through an emotional appeal that promises all their dreams coming true, that would be a different starting point than a message that calls them to "turn and receive the forgiveness of their sins". One leads to a Christianity that could be about "God serving me," vs "me serving God."

- Based on our discussion, is there an encouragement or a challenge you can hold onto this week?

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.

- 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.**