



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' Guide – October 12/13, 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 12/13 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 2:16-16.**

Start the conversation with an "Icebreaker."

In this passage, Paul mentions that the gospel message is a mystery God hid from the world and made it known which can only be understood by the Spirit.

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: Are you a person that enjoys mystery / suspense? (Give an example of a positive or negative experience that informs your answer! I.e. "I love detective stories and trying to theorize the outcome." Or "I hate suspense because I don't like being surprised or shocked.")**

Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

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 2:6-9.**
 - How does Paul describe the nature of the "wisdom" he's been imparting to the Corinthians? (2:7-8)
 - **It's secret and hidden (2:7)**
 - **A wisdom from God (2:7)**
 - **He decreed it before the ages (2:7)**
 - **The rulers of the world didn't understand it (2:8)**

- **Look at 2:10-13.**
 - How does Paul describe the “Spirit of God?”
 - **God has revealed his mystery through the Spirit. (2:10)**
 - **The Spirit searches everything (2:10)**
 - **The only one who comprehends the thoughts of God (2:11)**
 - **We’ve received him (2:11)**
 - **He helps us understand the things given from God (2:12)**

- **Look at 2:14-16.**
 - What is the difference between the “natural” and the “spiritual” here?
 - **Natural: does not accept the things of the Spirit, sees them as folly; cannot understand**
 - **Spiritual: can make right judgments, but cannot be judged by human judgment**

- *Reflect on these observations: What importance does the Holy Spirit have for Christians in regards to the message of the gospel?*

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 frequently speaks of the gospel as a “mystery” being revealed. Look up **Ephesians 3:2-6** and **Colossians 1:26-27** What do you learn about the gospel?
The gospel includes salvation for Jews and Gentiles, God kept it for generations and now revealed it, it is Christ in us, the hope of glory.
Leaders: Note the parallels between this and 1 Corinthians, but also the difference in context, (e.g the same truth is used by Paul to give hope and to humble the church).

- In 2:6-16, Paul describes the Holy Spirit. Our idea of who the Spirit is and what he does is often underdeveloped. Refer to **John 14:26** and **John 16:13-24**.
 - Who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do according to these texts?
 - **Notice the Holy Spirit is described as “he” not “it” - he is a person!**
 - **He is described as a “Helper.”**
 - **The Holy Spirit’s role is described as a teacher and a reminder of Jesus’ teachings**
 - **He is described as the “Spirit of truth,” who guides believers into all truth and glorifies Jesus.**

- *Reflect on these texts. Did you grow up with an understanding of the Holy Spirit? (If so, how? If not, where are you today?)*

- 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.

- 1 Corinthians 2:9 cites **Isaiah 64:4**. Look this up, compare the truths of each, and then discuss: what picture do we get of God in these texts? How would you describe God to a younger believer or “not-yet” Christian based on these verses?
- What perspective has today’s discussion given us about those who don’t understand the mystery of the gospel? What steps can we take in response to those who resist coming to Jesus based on what we’ve discovered about the mystery of the gospel and the work of the Spirit?
Leaders: For example, we ought to resist pride and arrogance that we know Jesus as if it were something we did to discern the truth on our own strength. We ought to be thankful for the Spirit and ask the Spirit to draw people to understanding who the “Lord of glory” is!
- Based on our discussion, is there an encouragement or a challenge you can hold onto this week?
- Paul stresses that we have been given God’s Spirit to understand the things he gives us freely.
 - Spend some time in prayer. You could use this simple framework to move through:
 - Adoration: What things should we gratefully praise God for?
 - Confession: What things should we repent of and bring to God for forgiveness?
 - Supplication: What things should we ask God for?

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.**