



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Member's Guide – Sept 28/29, 2024

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

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.

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- "Let's start with prayer."
 - 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.)
 - What is one thing you're really burdened with right now? If comfortable, take turns and share one by one.
 - What are you praying about right now? How can we join you thanking God or seeking God?
 - 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.
- **Share a takeaway from the Sept 28/29 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **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

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?
- 1:23 - What is the content of Paul's preaching?
 - What response do the Jews have?
 - What about the Greeks?
- 1:24 - How is Jesus described in this passage?
- *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?
- What did God do?

- What was the new description of the Corinthian church?
- *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

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?
- 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?
 - What is God's desire in these passages?
- Now look to Romans 1:14-16 for how Jesus addresses this problem.
 - Who is the gospel for?
 - How does Paul describe what the gospel is and what the gospel does here?
 - How do people experience the gospel's benefits?

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.
- 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?

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.**