



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide – October 19/20, 2024

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.
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 18/19 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 3:1-9.**

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: Is there something you have recently tried to grow / develop (finances, garden, your physical muscles, a skill set, your kids' ability in something)? What are some of the common things that growth and development requires?**

Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

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 3:1-3.**
 - How does Paul describe the Corinthians?
- **Look at 3:4-8.**
 - Paul continues to describe the dynamic of following a favorite teacher with a gardening metaphor. What does he say about who he and Apollos are and how they relate to God's work?

- What do you learn about the dynamic of God using people and working himself?
- **Look at 3:9**
 - What is Paul's conclusion about himself and Apollos?
 - What is Paul's conclusion about the identity of the Corinthians?
- *Reflect on these observations: What do you think makes for a good church leader?*

Study Step 3: Connect To God's Story

Ask questions to understand how this text fits in the larger gospel story.

- In 3:1-3 Paul addresses the Corinthians and describes them as "immature" and "worldly."
 - Look up **Hebrews 5:12-14**. How does this passage compare with what Paul says in our text?
 - Now read **Ephesians 4:3, 11-15, Colossians 1:28-29, and 1 Peter 2:1-3**. What vision of "maturity" do we get for Christian life here?
- The immaturity Paul is dealing with in this text is manifesting itself in "jealousy & strife" - and centered on their rallying behind a favorite teacher (for reference, see **1 Corinthians 1:10-13**). Paul asks a pointed question - "WHAT is Paul/Apollos?" - interesting that he doesn't say "who" - but "what"?
 - Look at **John 15:1-8** to reinforce our perspective about how God accomplishes his purposes through his people.
 - What is the farming image Jesus uses in his "I AM" statement?
 - Who is the source of fruitfulness?
 - Who gets the glory for fruitfulness?
- *Reflect on the texts about God's servants. What's the difference between "fruitfulness" and "faithfulness?"*
- 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.

- *Reflect on the "maturity" texts above.* Share about how you are working towards maturity in your life. What is working? What is challenging in your current stage of life?
- Paul urges the church to be in unity and not end up in dissention over different teachers! Regardless, for Christians to grow up we need rebuke and encouragement. Is there someone you are discipling to become mature in knowing God and loving others?
 - Share and pray for that relationship!
 - Also pray for faithful workers of God in local churches, foreign missions, and our people's own ministries in the marketplace where fruit may take a LONG time.

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?