



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980  
**COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Community Group Leaders' Guide – November 2/3, 2024**

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

**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".**

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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- "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.

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- **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 Nov 2/3 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 3:10-17.**

### Start the conversation with an "Icebreaker."

In this passage, Paul speaks to the church about caring for how we build on the foundation of Jesus Christ. Our motive in doing this is that there is a reward for those who build well and that the church is the temple of God.

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 something you've built (or helped build) in your life that you're particularly proud of? (Something that most people may not know about you perhaps?) What led you to feeling like what was built was a success?**

### Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-17

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.

- **Take a look at vv. 10-11**
  - What does Paul reveal about the "foundation" he has laid?
    - Paul saw himself as a skilled master builder laying a foundation.
    - The foundation that he lays will be what others build on.
    - Those who build upon it should take care of what they build.
    - Paul's foundation is Jesus Christ, and no other foundation is sufficient.

- **Take a look at vv. 12-15**
  - What will the testing “fire” accomplish, according to Paul?
    - **It will test the work others have laid on the foundation. (v.13)**
    - **It will reveal who receives a reward (v.14)**
    - **It will reveal who suffers losses. (v.15)**
  
- **Take a look at 16-17**
  - What reality does Paul reveal to believers about themselves as the church?
    - **We are God’s temple. (v.16)**
    - **God’s Spirit dwells in us. (v.16)**
    - **God will destroy the one who destroys his Temple. (v.16)**
    - **We are God’s Holy Temple. (v.17)**
  
- *Reflection question. How do you respond to the idea that our work and contributions will be tested in the end? Does it encourage or frighten you? Why?*
  
- Carry the conversation into the next step below.

### **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.**

- As observed above, Paul has a concern for people to “take care” how they build upon the foundation (3:10) because there are two types of work: one that “survives” (3:14) and one that is “burned up.” (3:15). Let’s look at what work the New Testament indicates would survive or “receive a reward.”
  - Paul saw no other foundation to build upon other than Jesus. Look up **Matt 7:24-29**. Here, Jesus gives two examples of foundations to build on: the rock survives the storm (v.25), and the sand crumbles (v.27). What does Jesus say we must do in the text to be the wise builder? What kind of life is not “burned up” but “survives” to connect it to Paul’s language?
    - **The wise builder in Jesus’ parable is the one who built their house on the rock, Jesus Christ. The materials they used to build upon the rock were faith working itself out in obedience to all of Jesus’ teachings.**
  
  - Now read **1 Tim 4:16**. How does Paul encourage Timothy in a way that Timothy’s work would not be - to again use the language of 1 Corinthians - “burned up?”
    - **In 1 Timothy, he says to watch over ourselves to ensure good character and the right doctrine to save himself and his hearers. In other words, how we do the work (having a good character that is motivated for the glory of God, not our own) and the truth of our doctrine (not leading people astray) affect the quality of what we build.**
  
- Paul talks about “the day” (v.13) on which this fire will test what has been built on the “foundation” and who will receive a reward for what they have built (v.14). Let’s take a look and see what “the day” and the “reward” refer to.

- Read **Revelation 22:10-13**. Here, we glimpse what will occur once Jesus comes for the final judgment. This is “the day” Paul is referring to in 1 Corinthians. What does this text say Jesus will do?
  - **Jesus is coming soon with His recompense (rewards), which he will give out according to what people have done.**
- When Paul says “you” in verses 16-17, he is not talking about individuals but the whole church. If you have an ESV Bible, you should be able to see this footnoted. Look up Ephesians 2:19–22. What does this teach us about the church? Why do you think that God would destroy those who destroy his body?
  - **In Ephesians, we see that the church is indeed the temple of God, where God’s Spirit dwells. God considers the church very special, which is surely why he will destroy anyone who tries to destroy it.**
- 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.

The big imperative is that we take care of how we build upon the foundation (3:10).

- Our text teaches us that when we work for God, there is a way to build onto the foundation of Jesus rightly and wrongly. Paul’s instruction then is, “Let each one take care how he builds upon it.” (v.10). We learned that building rightly looks like practicing Jesus’ teaching, assessing our character and motives, and speaking true doctrine. Which of these could you ask for Jesus’ help, and why?
- Our text also discussed the church as the temple of God.
  - What attitudes and actions could we adopt to encourage the building up of the temple of God?
  - Reflecting on the warning about destruction in verse 17, how can you guard against actions or attitudes that might harm the community of believers?

# 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.

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- 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?