



EST. NORTHVIEW 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' Guide – November 9/10, 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 Nov 9/10 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 3:18-23.**

Start the conversation with an "Icebreaker."

In this passage, Paul speaks to the church about wisdom and foolishness.

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: Share a time when you thought you were being wise, but in the end you turned out looking like a fool.** (Maybe you made a decision to take a different driving route that turned out to be a disaster. Maybe you made a call on a situation that ended badly?)

Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-23.

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. 18-20.**
 - What kind of wisdom does Paul view negatively?
 - "...**anyone among you thinks that he is wise in *this age*...**"
 - "...**wisdom of this world...**" (v.19)
 - What reasons does Paul give for rejecting this worldly wisdom?
 - **Worldly wisdom is "folly" to God (V.19).**
 - **God "catches the wise in their craftiness."** (v.19)

- **God deems the thoughts of the wise as “futile.” (v.20)**
- **Take a look at vv. 18 & 21.**
 - Paul gives three directives in these verses. What three responses does Paul urge people to do?
 - **“Let no one deceive himself.” (v.18)**
 - **Anyone who thinks they are “wise in this age...” should become “fools that they become wise.” (v.18)**
 - **“So let no one boast in men.” (v.21)**
- **Take a look at vv. 21-23.**
 - Paul directs the people not to “boast in men” and then explains why. What reason does Paul give?
 - **“For all things are yours... Paul, Apollos, Cephas, life, death, etc.” (vv.21-22)**
 - **“..and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.” (v.23)**
- *Reflection question. Why do you think Paul urged those who think they are wise “in this age” to become fools in order to become wise?*
- Take these observations 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.

- For Paul the wisdom of the world is everything that opposes God’s wisdom. Paul quotes two Old Testament scriptures to show this. Let’s look at one of those: Look up **Psalms 94:3-11** (notice v.11 in particular).
 - Who is this Psalmist rebuking, and what are they guilty of?
 - **The context of verse 11 is a warning to the wicked who arrogantly take God for a fool (v.7)**
 - **The wicked are guilty of:**
 - **Arrogance & boasting in their sin (v.4)**
 - **Oppressing others (v.5)**
 - **Violence against the weak and vulnerable (v.6)**
 - **Assuming God will not take notice or act (v.7)**
 - In verses 8 to 11, how does the Psalmist expose the foolishness of the wisdom of the wicked?
 - **Essentially, the wicked believe they can outsmart their creator (vv.9-10)**
 - **God as creator is the measuring stick for wisdom, all deviations (“all human plans” v.11) are “futile.” (v.11)**
- The world’s wisdom has a blinding effect towards the wisdom of God. Look up **1 Cor 2:6-8**.
 - What does Paul say about the wisdom that comes from God?
 - **It is not the wisdom of “this age” (v.6)**
 - **The wisdom of God is a “secret and hidden” wisdom. (v.7)**

- How did the wisdom of the age affect the rulers in Paul's day?
 - **The wisdom of the world blinded the rulers to God's wisdom (shown in Christ crucified). Therefore, they crucified the "Lord of glory" (Christ). (v.8)**
- *Reflection Question: Taking the two texts above together, where do you think Christians today commonly follow the wisdom of the world instead of the wisdom of God?*
- Paul directs the people not to "boast in men..." "For all things are yours..." Paul wants his readers to see that they have been boasting in the wrong things (namely their leaders 1 Cor. 1:11; cf. 3:5-7). In reality, they should be boasting in Jesus who has given them victory in all things!
 - Read **Romans 8:28-39**. What does this passage say about the present and future condition of Christians?
 - **"All things work together for good..." (v.28)**
 - **Conformed into the image of Jesus. (v.29)**
 - **Justified and glorified (v.30)**
 - **You should be able to draw out more as you go through verse by verse.**
 - You could also look up **Ephesians 1:3-14** for more on what we have in Christ to expand your conversation.
- 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.

- How can we stay on guard against worldly wisdom? (How do we know if something that is "foolish to God" has crept into our thinking? Is there something you regularly do that works?)
- Where could our conversation about the things we have gained in Christ help shift our perspective about something in life today? Where does this challenge you? Where does it encourage you?
- How should we pray in light of today's discussion?
 - Adoration? Something to praise God for?
 - Confession? An action or attitude to turn away from?
 - Supplication? Something to ask God's help 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 available upon request.)
- 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?