



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide – November 2/3, 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.
- **Share a takeaway from the Nov 2/3 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **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

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?
- **Take a look at vv. 12-15**
 - What will the testing "fire" accomplish, according to Paul?
- **Take a look at 16-17**
 - What reality does Paul reveal to believers about themselves as the church?
- *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

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?
 - 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?"
- 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?
- 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?
- 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.

- 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?