



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide – November 9/10, 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 9/10 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **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

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?
 - What reasons does Paul give for rejecting this worldly wisdom?
- **Take a look at vv. 18 & 21.**
 - Paul gives three directives in these verses. What three responses does Paul urge people to do?
- **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?
- *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

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 96:3-11** (notice v.11 in particular).
 - Who is this Psalmist rebuking and what are they guilty of?
 - In verses 8 to 11 how does the Psalmist expose the foolishness of the wisdom of the wicked?
- 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?
 - How did the wisdom of the age affect the rulers in Paul's day?
 - *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?
 - 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.
- 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?