



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

**Community Group Guide – November 16/17, 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.

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- **Pray.** Acknowledge God's presence + ask for his help to hear what he's saying through the text."
- **Share a takeaway from the Nov 16/17 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **Facilitate a brief study of 1 Corinthians 4:1-13.**

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

In this passage, Paul describes the ministry of the apostles and how we are called to be faithful stewards of what God has given..

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: Have you ever been given huge responsibility for a task that created pressure on you to perform well?** (Maybe your work had you organize something crucial or you were in charge of leading a group safely back and forth? Maybe you had to take the stage at an event where all eyes and ears were on you? Perhaps someone entrusted you with caring for them or others with something valuable? (Kids, a secret, their property.)

### Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-13

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. 1-5.**
  - How are the Corinthians to view Paul and the other teachers? What were they entrusted with?
  - How does Paul view judgment of others/himself?
  - How is this contrasted to God's judgment?
- **Take a look at vv. 6-8.**
  - Why does Paul want the Corinthians to learn not to go beyond "what is written?"
- **Take a look at vv. 8-13.**
  - What are the contrasts you see between the Corinthians and Paul and his ministers?

- *Reflection Question: What is Paul trying to show them in this section?*
- 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.

- Paul argues that *judgment* belongs to God and he will expose the heart's intention. **Read Romans 14:10-12 and Revelation 22:12**
  - What do you learn about "judgment"?
- Paul intends maturity for the Corinthians: He teaches them as well as us so **"that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another."**
  - Consider **Luke 18:9-14**. In this parable, Jesus contrasts the prayers of a Pharisee and a tax collector addressing an audience **"who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt."** What parallels do you draw to the Corinthians?
  - Read **James 2:1-9** How does Jesus' half-brother speak about partiality and favoritism in the church?
  - *Reflection Question: Taking the two texts above together, which attitudes is the NT promoting in mature Christians regarding how we treat others in the body of Christ? How can we be prudent about making judgments within the body of Christ and outside of it? What should we be aware of?*

### Step 4: Apply To Our Story

Ask questions to discern what God is telling us to do with the help of the Holy Spirit.

- If the judgment / assessment that God has is regarding our faithfulness with what we've been given - then we need a sober self-reflection: Have I been a faithful steward? How can we measure if we have been?
- How do we invite the assessment of others into our lives so that we can benefit and grow from others who are willing to make us better people? (It might be helpful to look up Proverbs 27:6 here.)
- When looking at Northview and/or the global church of Christ, what are you compelled to pray for in light of these texts? (Wisdom to know the difference between condemning and discerning, humility and fairness?)

# 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.
- Is there something we could do this Christmas season as a group to bless others? A special note from Connor, our Local Outreach Coordinator:

*Christmas is coming, which means I am busy starting some of our Christmas initiatives, one of which is our Christmas Hamper program in partnership with Abbotsford Christmas Bureau.*

*Providing a Christmas Hamper for a household in need is a wonderful way to demonstrate the love and graciousness that we have been given through Christ. Providing a hamper or two to your group is a great way to serve our neighbour. I talked to one community group leader last year who, through their group, was able to pool their time, money, and resources to help two families with eight members each! The leader remarked that they could provide way more than they could alone.*

*It was a great way for the group to work and pray together for families they had never met. Delivering the hampers was a joy, as the families were so thankful and shared a bit of their story and the hardships they faced that year.*

***I invite you to consider signing up to provide a hamper with your Community Group this year. If you would like to, follow the steps below. And if you have any questions, please email me at [cbelsher@northview.org](mailto:cbelsher@northview.org)***

1. Fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/9NTKNVgtbzykqoo9>.
2. Applications for providing a hamper are due Dec. 1st.
3. Get matched with a family starting in the first two weeks of December.
4. Contact the matched family within 48 hours to confirm food, gifts, and drop-off date.
5. Shop for the family!
6. Pray for the family before you drop off your hamper.
7. Drop off the hamper on the designated day for your matched family on the agreed-upon day.