



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' Guide – March 15/16, 2025

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 March 15/16 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 Cor 10:1-22**

Start the conversation with an "Icebreaker."

In today's passage, Paul shows the Corthians that he uses his freedom to become a slave of all for the sake of the gospel.

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: How has someone else's negative experience served as a warning or lesson for you? (For example, a friend who faced consequences after breaking a rule, or someone whose harmful actions came back to affect them.)**

Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-22

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.

Synopsis: In this week's passage, Paul uses the Israelites' failures as warnings for the Corinthians, urging them to avoid idolatry, immorality, testing Christ, and grumbling. He stresses the importance of learning from their mistakes, and applies this to the larger context of eating food "offered to idols".

- **Take a look at 10:1-13.** Paul gives a list of examples from Israel's history to warn the Corinthians. Explore what he says about those examples:
 - What are some of the things about Israel that Paul wanted the Corinthians to know in 10:1-5 and 8-10?
 - **The Israelites were under the cloud and passed through the sea (v.1).**
 - **They were baptized into Moses (v.2).**
 - **They ate spiritual food and drank spiritual drink from God (vv.3-4).**
 - **God was displeased with most and many were overthrown in the wilderness due to sin (v.5)**
 - According to Paul's reading of history, why did these things take place (see 10:6 and 10:11)?
 - **As warning examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.**
 - What commandments do you see in 10:7-13?
 - **Do not be idolaters as some of them were (v.7).**
 - **Do not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did (v.8).**
 - **Do not put Christ to the test as some of them did (v.9).**
 - **Do not grumble as some of them did (v.10).**
 - **Let anyone who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall (v.12)**
 - What encouragements do you find in 10:7-13?
 - **These things took place as examples for us (v.6).**
 - **These things were written down for our instruction (v.11).**
 - **The temptations in life are no different from what others experience. (v.13)**
 - **God is faithful (v.13 a)**
 - **He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand, he will provide the way of escape in temptation (v.13).**
- **Take a look at 10:14-22.** Paul has laid out these warnings; now let's look at his instruction to the Corinthians.
 - What has Paul commanded in light of these warnings?
 - **"Flee from idolatry." (v.14)**
 - **Decide for themselves what is true (v.15)**
 - What does Paul say about communion (remember the issue from ch.8 was eating food offered to idols)?
 - **The cup and bread are a participation in Christ's body and blood (v.16)**
 - **unity of believers in Christ is expressed, symbolized by sharing one loaf. (v.17)**
 - **Those who partake in sacrifices become sharers in the altar(v.18).**
 - **idols are nothing, but sacrificing like pagans means to offer them to demons (v.19)**
 - **You cannot partake of the Lord's table and the table of demons (v.21).**
 - What is Paul's motivation for these instructions?
 - **To remind them that idolatry is incompatible with belonging to Christ (vv.20-21).**
 - **To warn them against provoking the Lord's jealousy (v.22).**
- *Reflection question. What tone do you hear in Paul writing? What encourages or challenges you about it?*
- 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.

- Read **Numbers 11** and "Decide for yourselves if what Paul is saying is true" (1 Cor 10:15). Get a couple of volunteers to read Numbers 11:1--9, Numbers 11:10-15, Numbers 11:16-23, Numbers 11:24-30 and Numbers 11:31-35.
 - What are some of the atrocious things Israel is saying?
 - **Complaining about hardship (v.1).**
 - **Longing for the food of Egypt (v.5).**
 - **Dissatisfaction with manna (v.6).**
 - How is God's judgment seen?
 - **Fire to burn among them as a result of their complaints (v.1-3).**
 - **They will be overwhelmed by quail, revealing how their desires will bring consequences (v.19-20).**
 - Where do you see the idolatry in the text?
 - **Longing for Egypt's comforts, rejecting God's provision (v.5)**
 - **Complaining about manna, refusing to trust in God's faithful care (v.6).**
 - Shortly after, Israel rebels again. Consider **Numbers 14:22**: "*Not one of the men who have seen my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, but who have disobeyed me and tested me ten times will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors.*" What does this tell you about the nature of God's judgment?
 - [Note how God deals graciously with Moses' complaint and provides the help he needs. What is the difference between how Israel dealt with it and how Moses did? (hint: Num 11:1, 10a vs. Num 11:11)]
 - *Reflection: Where do you see Christians fall into the same trap? Name ways in which we grumble and reject the Lord?*
- The understanding of the New Testament is to live pleasing to God, and in unity with one another. Read **Romans 12:1-5** and **James 4:4** and list the call we have as believers:
 - **Live as living sacrifices: Offer your body to God as an act of worship (12:1).**
 - **Do not conform to the world: Be transformed by the renewing of your mind (12:2).**
 - **Use your gifts for the body: Serve with humility, recognizing that we are one body in Christ (12:3-5).**
 - **Do not be friends with the world: Friendship with the world is enmity with God (Jas.4:4).**
- Read **Hebrews 8:8-12**: What is the promise that God makes in the new covenant? How can we overcome our heart-disposition of idolatry?
 - **Promise of a new heart: God will put His laws in their minds and write them on their hearts (v.10).**
 - **Personal relationship with God: "I will be their God, and they will be my people" (v.10).**
 - **Forgiveness of sins: "I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (v.12)**

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- Paul identifies several temptations Israel faced (like their grumbling or sexual immorality). Consider this explanation by Tim Keller on idolatry: *"Idolatry is treating anything as more important than Jesus Christ for your meaning in life, for your happiness, for your security and hope, or for your self-regard. The reason why it's so important to understand the sin of idolatry is that it can be growing in a part of your life for a long time and get very deep without it right away leading to clear, visible, and easily seen violations of God's law."*² If you feel comfortable, share what this might look like in your life!
- The author of Hebrews says this: "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." **(Hebrews 3:13)**
 - Talk about specific, practical examples and ways to exhort those God placed in your life (e.g sending an email of encouragement once a week, dropping off a card or gift for someone, etc.)
- How should we pray in light of today's discussion?
 - Take some time to pray that God would reveal to us where our hearts are wrongly aligned!
 - Pray that God would by his grace prevent us from hardening our hearts and soften it where we have hardened it. Pray for the leaders of Northview as well that they would stay sensitive to the leading, encouragement and power of the gospel.

²Keller, Timothy. "What Is Idolatry?" *The Gospel Coalition*.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism/what-is-idolatry/#:~:text=TIMOTHY%20KELLER&text=Idolatry%20is%20treating%20anything%20as,or%20for%20your%20self%2Dregard.>

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 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?