



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide – March 15/16, 2025

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 March 15/16 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **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

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?
 - According to Paul's reading of history, why did these things take place (see 10:6 and 10:11)?
 - What commandments do you see in 10:7-13?

- What encouragements do you find in 10:7-13?
- **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?
 - What does Paul say about communion (remember the issue from ch.8 was eating food offered to idols)?
 - What is Paul's motivation for these instructions?
- *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

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?
 - How is God's judgment seen?
 - Where do you see the idolatry in the text?
 - 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:
- 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?

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."*¹ 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.

¹Keller, 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.
- 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?