



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

**Community Group Leaders' Guide – January 18/19, 2025**

This guide is designed to help you and your group be **deeply rooted followers of Jesus**.<sup>1</sup>

**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".**

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 Jan 18/19 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 Corinthians 5:1-13**

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

In this passage, Paul addresses how the church is to deal with active and blatant sin. We'll discuss this further below, but for now, share from your life to get a feel for this dynamic in the text (while also helping others get to know one another).

Is there a time when someone spared you from harm, embarrassment, or inconvenience that you didn't realize you were headed towards? Can you think of a time when someone lovingly called you out on something? What made it helpful or challenging?

### Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.

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.

- What incident has occurred that is leading to Paul's address?
  - **"A man is sleeping with his father's wife." (5:1)**
- How do the Corinthians view this incident?
  - **"And you are arrogant!" (5:2) & "boasting" (5:6).**

- What does Paul instruct the Corinthians to do with this *specific situation*? (See vv. 4-5 and v. 12-13). What is the end goal for disciplining this man?
  - **Paul instructs the Corinthians to hand this man over to Satan to turn him back from his sin and save his soul (vv.4-5).**
  - **“Expel the wicked person from among you.” (5:13)**
- *Reflection question. What challenges do you think we’d face in the church today in carrying out similar instructions for similar situations?*
- 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.**

- Paul ends this passage with a phrase repeatedly used in the book of Deuteronomy, “Purge the evil person from among you.” Read **Deuteronomy 13:1-5**.
  - What danger does the false prophet in this passage pose?
    - **The prophet poses the threat of leading Israel to rebel against God and commit idolatry (vv. 2 & 5).**
  - What is Israel instructed to do with the false prophet and evil in general?
    - **They are to kill the prophet (v.5) and “purge the evil from their midst” (v.5).**
  - *What was at stake for Israel? What would be the consequences for not following these instructions?*
    - **Spiritual integrity. There were blessings for obedience and consequences for rebellion. Tolerating sin was a slippery slope...**
- Paul clearly states that those inside the church are called to hold each other accountable. Paul phrases this in a rhetorical question, “Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?” (v.12). Jesus also taught on judging. **Read Matthew 7:1-5**.
  - What does Jesus call hypocritical (v.5)?
    - **Jesus calls those who judge others for what they do themselves.**
  - *Reflection Question: Jesus begins by saying, “judge not,” and ends by saying, “first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.” What is the difference between judging and helping someone take a speck out of their eye once you have dealt with your own?*
    - **Jesus isn’t against judging, he is for judging with right judgement. There is a difference between exercising good, non-hypocritical judgment in a way that is restorative vs condemning.**
- In the middle, Paul reminds the Corinthians and us why we seek holiness within the church. “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” (v.7). **Read Romans 6:6-7 & 6:12-13**
  - What has Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross done to our “old self” (vv.6-7)?



# 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?