



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' Guide – January 25/26, 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 Jan 25/26 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 6:1-11.**

Start the conversation with an "Icebreaker."

In this week's passage, Paul addresses the Corinthians' conduct with one another. He rebukes them for having lawsuits against one another and behaving like unbelievers. 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).

Do you enjoy stories that are set in a courtroom? (Why? Do you have a favourite movie or TV show set in a courtroom?) OR: Have you personally had an experience with the legal system? (Ever been to court? Have you ever witnessed a lawsuit unfold - maybe a neighbor or friend? What were some of your impressions with regards to relationships, for example)?

Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 4:14-21.

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 action does Paul confront the Corinthians about in 6:1?
 - **"dispute with one another, taking it before the ungodly for judgment" (6:1)**
- *Who* does Paul tell them will be the godly judge? Why does he tell them that?
 - **"The world" (6:2) & "angels" (6:3), gives a standard for maturity**

- How should they have better handled the dispute according to 6:5?
 - **Have a wise person mediate/judge (6:5)**
- What does Paul infer in 6:7 from them having not just disputes, but even lawsuits?
 - **“They are defeated already” (6:7)**
 - **“Rather should be wronged or cheated” (6:7)**
- What do they do instead ? How does Paul describe the party sinned against (v.8), in other words what relationship do they have?
 - **“Do wrong and cheat” (6:8)**
 - **“Their own brothers and sisters” (6:8)**
- What warning does Paul give them?
 - **“Evildoers, sexual immoral, idolaters ... will not inherit the kingdom of God” (6:10)**
- In what tense does Paul talk about their identity related to sinful actions? (beginning of verse 11)
 - **“Some of them once were that” (6:11a)**
- What are the Corinthians in the name of Jesus and by the Spirit’s power now? (6:11b)
 - **“Washed”**
 - **“Sanctified”**
 - **“Justified”**
- *Reflection question. Earlier in this book Paul rebuked them “not to shame them” (4:13), but this time Paul says this to “shame them” (6:5) Why do you think Paul approaches them this way given the context?*
- 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 rebukes the Corinthians' attitude towards those in dispute. Paul encourages them to rather be wronged. Have different members read the following passages: Proverbs 12:16, 15:1, 17:9, 17:27-28, 19:11.
 - Now debrief these readings. What approach does the wise person have towards an offense?
 - **Those who overlook an offense, show themselves as patient, loving and prudent (17:9, 12:16)**
 - How are we to respond in situations of dispute?
 - **Listen before we speak (17:27)**
 - **Speak gently not harsh (15:1)**
 - **Be patient (19:11)**
 - *Reflect. What would be necessary to respond in such a way and to be wronged on purpose ?*

- To press deeper into this topic, **Read Luke 22:19–27.**
 - What was the setting of this scene in the gospels?
 - **Last supper, shortly before Jesus’ death he has a meal with his disciples teaching them about what is going to happen to him (22:19-22)**
 - What happened after this meal?
 - **A dispute arose among the disciples of who would be the greatest (22:24)**
 - How does Jesus address this dispute? What principle is Jesus teaching them?
 - **Jesus teaches that true greatness is found in humble service, not status, following His example. He reminds them of the kingdom way. (22:25-27)**
 - *Reflection Question: Think about what was about to happen to Jesus at this stage of the gospel. What do you notice in Jesus’ words addressing their dispute? With this example in mind, why do you think Paul urges them to rather be wronged than have their right? What layer does the fact add, that the Corinthians had full lawsuits in front of unbelievers?*
- In the last section, Paul stresses that in order to live differently they ought to know who they are. Note the same pattern in **Ephesians 1:3-7, 4:1 and 5:5-9**
 - What are we in light of Jesus' life, death and resurrection?
 - **believers are blessed, chosen, loved, adopted, redeemed, and forgiven by God’s grace. (1:3-7)**
 - What are we to do in light of Jesus' life, death and resurrection?
 - **Live in a worthy manner of the calling (grace) given to us (4:1)**
 - Again, Paul shows a characteristic of genuine believers. What does their identity look like?
 - **Persistent sin and idolatry are incompatible with inheriting God’s kingdom. But through Christ, they are now in the light, empowered to live in goodness, righteousness, and truth. It offers hope that transformation is possible through God's grace. (5:5-9)**
- 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.

- In light of this teaching and last week’s teaching on loving accountability in the church...
 - What are some practical ways we can practice humility that leads us to rather be wronged than fight for our own right?
 - Many statistics show that the number 1 reason for church splits are disputes among members. How can we promote unity in the church (Eph. 4:3)?
 - Spend some time in prayer for peace and loving relationships in the church.
- Paul warns of the danger of living in persistent sin and conforming to the world. He stresses the work and love of Jesus as the basis for right living.

- What is Paul's attitude toward those stuck in sin? Why did he bother to address the "lost causes" in the first place? What can we learn from Paul's way of speaking truth?
- How can we grow in our understanding of our true identity as believers? What are some practical ways to live according to our calling? (Meditate on truths, encouraging one another in our identity)
- Close this time by Praising Jesus for his work and the new life we get to live through him.
 - Maybe you can pick an affirmation from below, and meditate on it or pray through them

Affirmation	Scripture Reference
I am forgiven of my sin	Colossians 2:13-14
I am a child of God	John 1:12
I am justified and declared righteous	Romans 5:1
I am free from condemnation	Romans 8:1
I am redeemed and set free	Ephesians 1:7
I am a new creation	2 Corinthians 5:17
I am chosen and holy	1 Peter 2:9
I am loved with an everlasting love	Jeremiah 31:3
I am a temple of the Holy Spirit	1 Corinthians 6:19
I am washed, sanctified, justified.	1 Corinthians 6:11
I am seated with Christ in heavenly places	Ephesians 2:6
I am more than a conqueror	Romans 8:37
I am reconciled to God	2 Corinthians 5:18-19
I am God's workmanship	Ephesians 2:10
I am a citizen of heaven	Philippians 3:20
I am complete in Christ	Colossians 2:10
I am no longer a slave to sin	Romans 6:6-7
I am an heir of God and co-heir with Christ	Romans 8:17
I am filled with every spiritual blessing	Ephesians 1:3
I am victorious through Christ	1 Corinthians 15:57
I am guarded by God's peace	Philippians 4:7

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?