



EST. NORTHVIEW 1980  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' Guide – February 1/2, 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".**

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<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.

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- "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.

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- **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 Feb 1/2 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 6:12-20**

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

In this passage, Paul concludes his first argument (cultivating humility and union in the Corinthian church).

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 made a decision thinking it was totally fine, only to later realize it had unexpected consequences? What happened?** (ex. Putting tinfoil in the microwave, saying something you later regretted, or procrastinating and later paying the consequences, etc.)

### Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

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.

- **Take a look at 6:12-14**
  - Paul says twice, "All things are lawful for me." What qualifiers does he add?
    - **"Not all things are helpful." (12)**
    - **"I will not be dominated by anything." (12)**
  - What does Paul say the body is not for and is for?
    - **"The body is NOT meant for sexual immorality" (13)**
    - **The body IS meant... "for the Lord and the Lord for the body." (13)**



- In Galatians, what have Christians been called into? Having been called, what are believers meant to grow into?
  - **Leader Note: Freedom (13)**
  - **Leader Note: The risk of this freedom is that believers abuse it for the flesh. However, this freedom is meant to push them to be more pervaded by love. Making them more selfless friends, spouses, workers, co-workers, and brothers and sisters in Christ.**
- Paul addresses sexual immorality in the church, and he gives two distinct commands. First, flee from sexual immorality. Second, glorify God with your body. **Read Genesis 39:7-12 & Matthew 5:27-30.**
  - In Genesis, Joseph models these two commands: glorify God with your body and flee sexual immorality. Why does Joseph refuse to lay with Potiphar's wife? When the temptation of Potiphar's wife reaches its height, what is Joseph's response?
    - **Leaders note: Joseph's refusal is based on two reasons: Honour and respect for the trust Potiphar has placed in Joseph, and even more importantly, Joseph's action will reflect on God's glory (good or bad).**
    - **Leader note: Joseph's response to Potiphar's wife is to flee. Apparently, sexual sin, in particular, is not something you reason yourself out of. It's something you run from.**
  - In Matthew, Jesus lays out a clear boundary line on sexual immorality and offers a practical application for dealing with this sin. What line does Jesus establish for what falls under adultery? What is Jesus' application for how to deal with this sin?
    - **Leaders Note: Looking with lustful intent is the line for committing adultery.**
    - **Leaders note: Jesus calls for radical action against lust, using the imagery of tearing out an eye or cutting off a hand. This isn't meant to be taken literally, but it emphasizes the seriousness of removing lust from our lives.**
    - **Pastoral remark: This passage challenges us to take real steps toward freedom from lust. Overcoming porn or adultery may require sacrifice, vulnerability, and even seeking professional help—but not out of shame, rather from a desire for healing. Jesus, the Great Physician, came to restore those struggling with sin.**
- *Reflection: Jesus and Joseph both set good examples to follow when it comes to temptation and fleeing from sin. Sometimes we need to be reminded that it's possible to walk in faithfulness! Is there someone you know who has inspired you when it comes to living faithfully and resisting sin?*
- 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.

- Discuss Paul's command to "flee" sexual immorality.
  - What does this practically look like?
  - What are the challenges in doing this in the time in which we live?
  
- How can our church, and our community group specifically, foster an atmosphere where people feel safe to confess sin - including sexual sin - and be lovingly encouraged towards freedom?
  - What things are we already doing that we could do more of?
  - What things could we try doing that we haven't yet done?
  
- Finish in prayer. Some examples/prompts:
  - Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate a culture of honest confession and healing.
  - Pray that our church, our group, and our homes would be places of refuge for those needing love, support, and accountability.
  - Ask God to convict of sin where needed, to lead people to repentance where needed, to find God's kindness where needed, and for the Lord to break the hold of shame with his grace.
  - Pray that God's voice would be louder than the enemy's accusations, empowering people to seek help and freedom.

# 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.  
**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?