



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide – January 18/19, 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 Jan 18/19 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **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

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?
- How do the Corinthians view this incident?
- 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?
- *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

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?
 - What is Israel instructed to do with the false prophet and evil in general?
 - *What was at stake for Israel? What would be the consequences for not following these instructions?*
- 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)?
 - *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?*
- 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)?
 - In light of being set free from sin, what does Paul tell us to do with our "members" (Mind, body, and soul)? (vv.12-13)
- 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.

- There is a clear call for brothers and sisters in Christ to hold one another accountable for living the new life we have been given in Christ, leaving the old one behind. How can we cultivate an environment of grace-filled accountability in our community?
- - What are some practical ways we can lovingly hold each other accountable without hypocrisy? (See Galatians 6:1, James 5:19-20)
 - Who, in your life, would be most likely to call you out if you were headed down a destructive path?
 - How do we create a space where people feel safe to confess struggles and seek help, knowing they will be met with grace and support?

- Paul corrects the boasting of the Corinthians, which revealed a nonchalant attitude towards sin. What might cause a church to become complacent or “okay” with certain sins?
 - What are some cultural pressures or attitudes that can make us more accepting of sin in the church, either knowingly or unknowingly?
 - How can we, as a church, stay vigilant against becoming desensitized to sin, while still offering grace to those who fall short?

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?