



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide – Feb 1/2, 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 Feb 1/2 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **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

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?
 - What does Paul say the body is not for and is for?
 - What will God do for us?
- **Take a look at 6:15-20**
 - Paul shed some light on the human body, showing the dignity and honour God has given it and what happens when it's misused.
 - What truths does Paul reveal about the bodies of those who belong to God?
 - What are some of the consequences of misusing the body for sexual immorality according to 6:15-20?

- Paul gives two clear commands in 6:18-20. What are they?
- *Reflection question. In what ways do you observe culture influencing how people view their bodies and sexuality? How should seeing the body as "belonging to the Lord" inform our perspective?*
- 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 begins by emphasizing that the freedom gained in Christ through His amazing grace is not a license to sin. God's love, compassion, and grace should constantly push us towards obedience, not pushing the boundaries of sin. **Read Deuteronomy 6:1-3 & then Galatians 5:13-14.**
 - In Deuteronomy, what does God require of Israel as they enter the promised land? What motivation does God give for obedience?
 - In Galatians, what have Christians been called into? Having been called, what are believers meant to grow into?
- 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?
 - 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?
- *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.
 - 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?