



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide – March 22/23, 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 March 22/23 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **Facilitate a brief study of 1 Cor 10:23-11:1**

Start the conversation with an "Icebreaker."

In today's passage, Paul emphasizes the importance of putting the good of others before our own.

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: What is the kindest thing anyone has ever done for you, and what made it so impactful? (For example, someone gifted you a costly present, served you at great personal cost, etc.)**

Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

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.

Synopsis: In this section, Paul brings to a close his cautions about Christian freedoms. He gives a final exhortation to the Corinthians regarding the greater goal of the Christian life, which is beyond enjoying our own freedoms in Christ. This goal is to seek the good of others to the glory of God, even at personal cost. The questions below will help lay a foundation for understanding Paul's argument and applying it to ourselves.

- **Take a look at 10:23-24.** Paul references the Corinthian catchphrase for the freedom they claim in Christ, "all things are lawful."
 - What are the qualifiers that Paul adds to this statement regarding the extravagance of Christian freedom?
- **Take a look at 10:25-28.** Paul gives a practical example of the reality of our Christian freedom and another example of when to lay that freedom down for the sake of a brother or sister in Christ.
 - What does Paul give permission for every believer to feel the freedom to do, and why?
 - What is the exception to the Christian's freedom to eat anything without a guilty conscience?

- **Take a look at 10:29-11:1.** Paul raises some potential objections that the Corinthians might have to this idea of sacrificing freedom for another's conscience. Paul then gives his reasons for why his request is legitimate.
 - What objections does Paul raise against giving up freedoms for another?
 - How does Paul back his claim that Christians should lay down their freedoms for others?
- *Reflection idea. Take a moment to ask the Holy Spirit to highlight something from the text. After a time of silence, share what verse the Holy Spirit highlighted to you.*
- 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.

- One of the key applications Paul gives is "Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor." (v.24). **Take a look at Gal 5:13-15.** Consider how Paul's words encourage us to put others before ourselves.
 - In the book of Galatians, Paul argues powerfully for Christians to embrace their freedom in Christ from any form of legalism (Seeking justification through observance of the law). Therefore, in v.13 Paul says, "For you were called (by Jesus) to freedom, brothers." However, what is and isn't their freedom for?
 - What command fulfills the whole law of God?
 - What danger does the church face when we use our freedom as an opportunity for the flesh?
 - *Reflection Question: True freedom is not freedom from God's law, but the freedom through Jesus to fulfill the law by loving your neighbor as yourself. The true mark of Christian maturity is how well you love others like Jesus. How does this biblical view of freedom differ from the world's definition?*
- Paul gives a vision of what every human being was created to live for when he says, "Do all to the glory of God." (v.31). What does it mean to live that out? **Take a look at John 15:8-13.**
 - What does Jesus say gives his father glory? After Jesus says what gives his father glory, what command does he follow up with?
- Another key application that Paul leaves us with is this, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (11:1). **Take a look at Ephesians 5:1-2.**
 - What does Paul call Christians to do?
 - What motivation does Paul give for why we should imitate God and why we should walk in love?

- *Reflection Question: What are some of the biggest barriers to putting others needs before our own needs?*

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

Ask questions to discern what God is telling us to do with the help of the Holy Spirit.

- We asked you to take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight a verse that you can take and apply to your life. What verse stood out to you from this passage? What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do about it?
- Paul emphasizes a self-sacrificial love, one that seeks the good of another before your own. What is one practical way you can practice living this out for the rest of this week or the week to come?
- How should we pray in light of today's discussion?
 - Pray that the Holy Spirit would take what He has highlighted in this passage and empower you to apply it.
 - Thank Jesus that He sought our good even at a great personal cost to His own freedoms as the Son of God. By His self-sacrificial love, we have eternal life.
 - Ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His great love for you, so that, out of the overflow of His love, you can love others as He loves you.

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?