



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide – April 12/13, 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 April 12/13 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **Facilitate a brief study of 1 Corinthians 11:2-16**

Start the conversation with an "Icebreaker."

In this passage, Paul addresses how t men and women should behave in culturally appropriate ways as males & females when they pray and prophecy in the church. 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).

Icebreaker question: Why do you think that emotions get so embroiled when we talk about distinctions between men and women? (How have you seen controversy arise when discussing gender?)

Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Familiarize yourself with this section of verses.

Study Step 2: Understand Their Story - Expanded Edition!

Consider this table to understand what the author is communicating to the original audience.

1 Corinthians 11:2-16	What does it Say?
<p>2 I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you.</p> <p>3 But I want you to realize that the HEAD of every man is Christ, and the HEAD of the woman is man, and the HEAD of Christ is God.</p> <p>4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his HEAD.</p> <p>5 But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her HEAD— it is the same as having her head shaved.</p> <p>6 <u>For</u> if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head.</p>	<p>An Argument related to Head/Authority</p> <p>Paul praises them for holding onto his teaching of the equality of men and women before God in salvation. BUT he needs to correct their practices.</p> <p>Men dishonor their spiritual HEAD if they cover their heads.</p> <p>Women are praying and prophesying in the gathered assembly with their physical head uncovered. This practice dishonors their spiritual HEAD. By either failing to wear a physical head covering or having their hair loosened women were unnecessarily blurring social conventions regarding gender distinctions (how men and women should dress and behave) and negatively impacting male/female relationships.</p> <p>If women are going to be so disrespectful, says Paul, they might as well go all the way and cut off their hair.</p>
<p>7 A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.</p> <p>8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from man;</p> <p>9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.</p> <p>10 <u>It is for this reason</u> that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels.</p> <p>11 Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.</p> <p>12 For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.</p>	<p>An Argument related to Creation</p> <p>7-9 A Christian man should not cover his head in the gathered assembly because he is created in the image of God and should bring honor to God. (Roman priests may have pulled togas over their head while performing religious rituals.)</p> <p>Woman was created through man (Gen 2:21-25) as a suitable companion to complete him and together form humanity, and therefore woman should honor man.</p> <p>10 Women should exercise their authority in a respectful and proper way because the angels (God's servants) are watching over creation and protecting the worship of His people.</p> <p>11-12 Although man was created first, men and women are interdependent and must ultimately recognize their mutual dependence upon God.</p>
<p>13 Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?</p> <p>14 Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him,</p> <p>15 but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering.</p>	<p>An Argument related to Culture</p> <p>To add a 3rd layer to his argument, Paul appeals to cultural norms. If they are doubtful about his theological argument, he says, they should look around them. In culture, gender distinctives are maintained.</p> <p>Contemporary 1st century art and paintings show men with short hair & women with long hair; these practices distinguish between the genders.</p>

16 If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God.

Final words: Contentious people are advocating for these practices - our churches should not.

What does it Mean?

Alternative Interpretations

An Argument related to Head/Authority

ESV translates Greek as “wife” not “woman, therefore these instructions are specifically to married women.

The Greek word “kephale” (head), means literally a physical head, and metaphorically (*when used in the context of people*) “authority over”.

Since, the spiritual head (having authority over)...

- of men is Christ,
 - of a wife is her husband,
- men must pray and prophecy in a way that honors Christ, and wives must pray and prophecy in a way that honors their husband.
- of Christ is God,
- Trinitarian theology teaches that Jesus Christ is equal to God the Father in essence, but submitted to the Father’s authority while on earth. Eternal submission of the Son to the Father is debated.

An Argument related to Head/Authority

The Greek word “kephale” (head) means literally a physical head, and metaphorically “source”.

Therefore, since...

- Christ is the source of every man (they are new creations in him)
- Man is the source of woman (in creation)
- God is the source of Christ (on earth)

men must pray and prophecy in a way that honors Christ, and women must pray and prophecy in a way that doesn’t break down the gender distinctives between men and women, or negatively affect male/female relationships.

An Argument related to Creation

7-9 Since man was created first, he should bring honor to God. Since woman was created to complement man, a wife should bring honor to her husband.

10 - ESV “That is why a wife should have a symbol of authority on her head”

- Original context - women were uncovering their heads (symbol of desire to transcend sexuality), or wearing hair loose (symbolic of being unmarried, adulterer or pagan prophetic frenzy) and this dishonored their husbands.
 - **Q - What are cultural “symbols of authority” now by which wives honor their husbands?**
- 11-12 A husband’s spiritual “authority over” his wife is tempered by interdependence and the authority of God.

An Argument related to Creation

7-9 Since man was created first, he should bring honor to God. Since woman was created to complement man, and complete him, women should not pretend they are sexless (like the angels) or male.

10 - Women have ‘authority over their own heads’ but should exercise their authority in a respectful or proper way that doesn’t dissolve rightful male/female relationships or gender differentiations.

The basic emphasis of this passage (that men and women should behave in culturally appropriate ways as males & females when they pray and prophecy in the church) whether they are single or married is widely agreed upon.

Based on the understanding that “kephale” means “have authority over” not “source” when it is used metaphorically, **Complementarians** affirm that men have spiritual authority in the family, and this passage instructs wives to dress and act in a way that honors their husbands as they serve the church.

Egalitarians who understand “kephale” to be translated as “source” when it is used metaphorically, claim that this passage does not affirm authority structures between husbands and wives, but does still teach that women should dress and act like women and men should dress and act like men.

- *Reflection question. If you had to finish the sentence “a godly man is....” or “a godly woman is...”, what would you say?*
- 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.

- Understanding “headship” from a biblical perspective is critical.
 - Look up **Colossians 1:15-18, 2:19**
 - How do these texts shape our perspective about how Jesus’ headship works?
 - Look up **Ephesians 1:22, 4:15, 5:22-33**.
 - What do we learn further about Jesus from these texts?
 - What do we learn about “headship” marriage from these texts?
 - What’s the connection between love and headship?
 - Look up **Luke 22:25-27**.
 - What does Jesus tell us about how “authority” in the Kingdom of God works?
- *Reflection question. How are the biblical ideas about authority different from the power language of our modern culture? (i.e. is there a difference between having “authority” vs being “authoritarian?”)*
- 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.

- What does it look like in our churches for married men and women to pray and prophesy in a way that honours their spouse?
- What does it look like in our churches for married and single people to pray and prophesy in a way that doesn’t break down gender distinctives or negatively impact male/female relationships?

- How do you, personally, respond to people who interpret scripture differently than you do?
 - Consider the options below and a) explain why, then b) pray for one another that we'd be gracious and honouring in our worship and relationships with fellow Christians.
 - a) try to ignore differences or not get into debate,
 - b) offer to "expand fence lines" in order to make everyone feel that their idea is accepted,
 - c) engage in and enjoy the debate,
 - d) hold tightly to your conviction and become angry or frustrated with those who have different ideas or
 - e) other?

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?