



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980  
**COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Community Group Leaders' Guide – Sept 20/21, 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 September 20/21 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 12:1-11**

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

In today's passage, Paul informs the Corinthians about spiritual gifts, especially noting to them that in Christ there is unity by one Spirit, and not disunity with many spirits like in paganism.

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:

**Where have you uniquely experienced another's insight or gifting that was clearly from God? What did that experience lead to in your relationship with God?**

**Example: Did it bring you joy and lead to thankfulness and worship to God? Explain.**

**Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

Familiarize yourself with this section of verses. (Note characters, commands, key/repeated words!)

**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 12:1-3**
  - What is Paul concerned about?
    - "Concerning spiritual gifts" (1)
    - To be informed: "I do not want you to be uninformed" (1)

- What is said about the unity of God the Father, Jesus, and the Spirit?
  - **Only by the Holy Spirit can someone say “Jesus is Lord” (3b)**
  - **The Spirit, by which we say “Jesus is Lord”, is “the Spirit of God” (3a)**
  
- What is the contrast between their past pagan understanding and their new Christian reality?
  - **Paganism**
    - **“Led astray to mute idols” (2)**
    - **Wayward, led by many desires and by many influences**
      - **“Led astray... however you were led” (2)**  
**Though Paul is not explicit, there is an understanding that there is disunity, or many ways, in how pagans are led—yet he is explicit they are led astray.**
  - **In Christ**
    - **Based on the prior question’s observations: Unity, consistency, which will be a theme in the next section as well.**
  
- **Take a look at 12:4-11**
  - After Paul has expressed the reason for addressing the topic of spiritual gifts, he moves on to the gifts themselves.
  - What giftings are listed?
    - **Utterance of wisdom (8a), utterance of knowledge (8b), faith (9a), healing (9b), miracles (10a), prophecy (10b), distinguish between spirits (10c), tongues (10d), interpretation of tongues (10e).**
  
  - Who gives and empowers these gifts?
    - **The same God (6).**
    - **The Spirit (4, 7, 8, 9, 11) “as he wills” (11) – personal.**
  
  - What are these giftings for?
    - **For the service of the Lord (implied w/ v5).**
    - **“For the common good” (7).**
    - **His purposes: “apportions...as he wills” (11).**
  
  - Note how many times the Spirit is mentioned. What is Paul hoping to emphasize about the life of a Christian?
    - **United in each gift by one Spirit – the one Spirit of God (3) by which we have one Lord (3).**
    - **The outcomes and actions (varieties of gifts, service, activities) of a Christian are empowered by the Spirit.**
  
- *Reflection question. Paul indicated in 12:1 that he wanted the Corinthians to be informed about spiritual gifts. Share a bit from your church experience and upbringing. Are spiritual gifts something you’d say you were “uninformed” about? Was there an over-emphasis, or an under-emphasis on the gifts?*
  
- Take these observations into the next step below.

### Study Step 3: Connect To God's Story – (With answer key + leaders notes)

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.

- **Leaders!**  
**Historical context:**  
Paul's "Mute idols" in 1 Corinthians 12:2 is an allusion to Hab 2:18, though this theme is phrased with different words in Ps 115:5, Isa 46:7, Jer 10:5, which Paul is also aware of and by which affect his biblical thinking on the idols that the Corinthians were accustomed to.
  - **Note:** This biblical context could give insight to your discussion if the following question brings up the topic of idols in the biblical understanding. Use at your own discretion.
- Building on the contrast between life as a Christian and life as a "pagan" (12:2) look up **1 Cor 10:19-21**.
  - What added context does this passage add to 1 Cor 12:1-11? Why is Paul emphasizing one Spirit in 1 Cor 12:1-11 so much?
    - **Historical context connection:** They come from a world where power is manifested haphazardly, influenced by, and attributed to many gods/idols. Though Paul is aware that these physical idols were dead and mute, he notes that there are actually demons behind them—the gods, their names, and the powers those influenced by them might express.
    - Paul is emphasizing the unity of those with the same Spirit of God (2). In Christ there is one Spirit who gives to all in Christ. This contrasts with pagan demonic spirits who are contrary and divided. In next week's study, Paul will emphasize this unity 'in Christ' more.
- Paul emphasizes giftings in the Body of Christ in **Rom 12:6-8** and also in **Eph 4:11-12**.
  - Have someone read each of these texts.
  - What do these texts indicate about how God intends the spiritual gifts to function in the church?
    - **In Romans, Paul links the gifts to actions. The gifts are given in order to be used for service for others.**
    - **In Ephesians, these gifts are linked to offices of leadership within the Church, meant to be used "for building up the Body of Christ" and equipping the members of it—the saints.**
      - **Again, the gifts are not about us, but about serving others as one united people 'in Christ.'** (Again, Paul will get more into this unity 'in Christ' in next week's text).
- Alternative uniquely Spirit empowered giftings can be found in **Exodus 31:1-11**, as well as unique empowerment for key moments (Judges 6:34, 11:29-33, Acts 7:55).
  - What do these passages imply about the way God works?
    - **The context to Ex 31 is a command by God to do the unique work of establishing a copy of the heavenly dwelling on earth. Ex 31:1-11 note that God empowers and calls people so that this work can be accomplished.**
      - **2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship.**
    - This shows that He has always been empowering His people by the Spirit to enable them to do what He calls them to.



- Ask God to highlight where He would have us use our giftings, abilities, past experiential knowledge, and personality for His glory.
- Take some time to pray that as God both unites us and empowers us, that He would also give the desire and will to emphasize Jesus as Lord this week, month, day.

# 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?