



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

**Community Group Guide – Oct 4/5 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.
- **Share a takeaway from the October 4/5 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"

- **Facilitate a brief study of 1 Cor 13:1-13**

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

Paul continues his discussion on spiritual gifts (context: started in 12:1) by describing the necessity and nature of love, both for the present life and the one to come.

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:

**We have all had times where a worker "did their job" but was cold and distant. Why do we prefer service from those who are both loving and accomplish their task? Compare and contrast the motivation of love compared to mere duty.**

**Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

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

**Study Step 2: Understand Their Story**

Ask *observation questions* to understand what the author is communicating to the original audience.

**Last week Paul noted unity behind the use and understanding of spiritual gifts. This week he mentions love.**

- **Take a look at 13:1-3**
  - Without love, which things are empty noise ('noisy' 'clanging'), "nothing" and by which one can "gain nothing"?

- **Take a look at 13:4-8a**
  - How does Paul describe love here? How many descriptions do you see?
  
- **Take a look at 13:8-13**
  - Paul contrasts love with other temporary things.
  
  - Paul illustrates the movement from “partial to complete” in 3 ways. What are they?
  
- *Reflection question. Paul’s notes on love as a rightful motivator express it as a better way out of which to understand and practice spiritual gifts (for a negative example, we have all heard of charismatic speakers, with great knowledge and/or prophecies (1 Cor 13:1-3), that pull people away from Gospel-centered thinking). How does the motivation of love help us discern in others and ourselves where motivations matter in how we act and reason, as well as who we follow in the life of discipleship?*
  
- 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.**

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 not only describes love, but the way Jesus lived. Though one could look in many places, John 15:9-14 denotes the central love of both the Father and Jesus, the Son, and the love that Jesus’ followers are to have.
  - Have someone read John 15:9-14
  - Jesus states that He loves in the same way the Father loves Him (9). What are his disciples commanded to do?
  
  - What is similar about Paul’s statements in 1 Cor 13 about love motivating the Church’s use of spiritual gifts, and Jesus’ command about love in John 15:9-14?

- In Ephesians 4:11-16 Paul again speaks about how the Church ought to be united under the unique gifts of apostles, prophets, teachers (Eph 4:11) for the building up of the Body.
  - Have someone read Eph 4:11-16
  - What similarities do we have in Eph 4 as in 1 Cor 13 (hint: what illustration is used in both)?
  
  - What is the Body meant to build itself up in?
  
- We have been seeing how the nature of love affects how we act, even with supernatural giftings that the Spirit gives (1 Cor 12:11). Let us gather some broader context for how the Spirit empowers us from **Galatians 5**.
  - Have someone read Galatians 5:18-26
  - Paul here contrasts the ways of the Flesh (worldly sinful ways outside of God), and the ways of the Spirit.
    - What are the ways of the Flesh?
  
    - What are the ways of the Spirit?
  
  - In Gal 5:24-25 Paul makes the important note that those who belong to Jesus, are crucified to the passions and desires of the flesh. Yet, we still struggle in various ways as we grow in spiritual maturity (sanctification) as we saw in the illustrations Paul gave us in 1 Corinthians 13:11-12.
    - If we are dead to the Flesh and 'if we live by the Spirit,' what ought we now do in v 25?
  
  - Like in 1 Corinthians, Paul speaks to motivators. In verse 26, instead of love, Paul notes the opposite negative motivators. What are they?
  
- *Reflection: Though there is more here (and in Rom 8 if you have time), reflect on why Paul would emphasize unity through love by the Spirit so often in his letters to various churches? Where do you think this emphasis might be needed in our church today? (Try and eventually get to something specific and changeable)*

## Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- Paul is highlighting that how we live, and the motivation for how we live, matter more than what we have (spiritual gifts here, but we could extend this to finances, experiences, etc). How does Paul's description of love in 13:4-7 affect your understanding of a Christian's motivations for service with their spiritual gift(s), skills, abilities, experiences, etc?

- Paul notes that our time here (in its current form) will not last forever. Where are you living with this world as your focus instead of God and His love? How does the love of God, specifically in the Gospel, change the way we ought to live?
- God's love transformed the 1st century world through the early Church. It has, and will, continue to change the world by this contrast of unique God-love. Where do you see hope for change in the world? How about in places of culture, work, home, extended family, where your life touches?
- Where can you celebrate areas where love is a motivator in your life, CG, etc? Where does love need to become the motivation in your thinking, speaking, acting? What can you do this week to bring God's love into your thinking, speaking, acting? **Make it actionable** and not just theoretical (reminder in your phone, accountability partner, daily prayer for love as a motivator for a specific task, job, relationship, etc).

# 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?
- Pray for Northview's "All-In" Building Campaign. See Pastor Darcy's notes:
  - Worship Centre Project Update
    - We are waiting for our full Building Permit which should come by the end of this month.
    - Underground plumbing and footings will start this month.
    - The retention pond in the back of our property is now filled in and an extra 50 spots of parking have been added.
  - Prayer Requests for the Project
    - Pray for safety for all of the people working on site.
    - Pray that things would go smoothly for all the trades (no surprises!).
    - Pray for favor with the various suppliers and trades so that we would get a fair price on all that is required.
    - Pray that God would already be working in the hearts of people who will fill the seats of our new worship centre.
    - Pray for your 5x5x5 people!