



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' Guide – Sept 27/28 2025

This guide is designed to help you and your group be **deeply rooted followers of Jesus**.¹

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".

¹ 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.

- "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.

- **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 27/28 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 12:12-31**

Start the conversation with an "Icebreaker."

In today's passage, Paul continues informing the Corinthians about the unity of the Body of Christ by the Spirit, calling them to therefore be united in their treatment of one another. He notes especially how God has arranged the individual members He has chosen, specifically giving giftings for the edification of the Body.

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:

Describe the best experience you have had doing a group project. OR, tell the group about your favourite team you've been a part of. What values or attitudes made these task groups so successful and/or positive?

Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

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 12:12-20**
 - Who is responsible for the Body and its members? What does He do? (see 12:18)
 - **God (18)**

- **“God arranged the members in the body” (18a)**
 - **“Each one of them, as He chose” (18b)**
 - Paul acknowledges distinctions in the body, but emphasizes unity in this passage. How many times do you see the term “one body” in 12:12-20?
- **Take a look at 12:21-26**

Now that Paul has emphasized God arranging the united Body, he speaks about what this implies for how the members treat one another.

 - In light of being united in one Spirit, what can members not say to one another?
 - **“I have no need of you” (21)**
 - Just like in the natural body, what does Paul say about those who might seem or feel “weaker” in the Body of Christ?
 - **“They are indispensable” (22)**
 - **Think about the eye, ear, joints and tendons between parts, etc. Though they might be physically less tough, they are indispensable for the function of the body**
 - In fact, Paul notes that it is God who has “composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it.” What purpose does this serve to express (see 12:25)?
 - **“That there may be no division in the body” (25a)**
 - **“That the members may have the same care for one another” (25b)**
- How does the way we treat one another—bestowing “greater honour,” treating with “greater modesty,” noting the “indispensability” of those who “seem” weaker—affect the whole body? What two examples does Paul give about how the unity of the body is experienced?
 - **“If one member suffers, all suffer together” (26a)**
 - **“If one member is honored, all rejoice together” (26b)**
 - **Interesting to note that it is not worded “is honored, all are honored”**
- **Take a look at 12:27-31**

After Paul has established his useful imagery of the body to emphasize distinction, yet unity, established by God, he returns to speaking about spiritual gifts, which he started with in 12:1 and informs the content of this week’s section.

 - Who is the Body of Christ (27)?
 - **Paul says “you” (plural) are the Body.**
 - What things has God given to the body according to 12:28-31? How many things are in this section and what are they?
- *Reflection question. Paul has described perceptions about members and gifts in the Body by using the words “weaker” and also “higher.” What things seem to commonly form our perspectives about the value of different members and/or “gifts”? How does Paul’s Christ focused perspective challenge this common perspective?*
- 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.

- Depending on your preacher, they might have noted that, though neither part of the Body is inferior to another, Paul still gives a distinction to three numbered gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:28-31.
 - What are these gifts, and what do these three gifts have in common?
 - **"First apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then..." (28)**
 - **They all relate to what we might call offices of the church (Leaders! More on this in "Connect to His Story" section if needed)**
 - Why would Paul encourage them to "earnestly desire" the higher gifts?
 - **If referring to the 3, they uniquely have a multiplying effect by being authority related and proclamatory around the message of the Gospel itself.**
- Building on the contrast between Paul's three numbered gifts, and "then..." listing, look up **1 Tim 3:1-7** (cf Titus 1:5-9) to give some clarity to why he might do this.
 - Have someone read these verses.
 - When noting the qualifications for overseers, what does Paul note about the desire for these roles? How is this similar to 1 Corinthians 12:31?
 - **"If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desire a noble task" (1 Tim 3:1)**
 - **"Earnestly desire the higher gifts" (1 Cor 12:31)**
 - When noting the qualifications for overseers, though all of them could apply to any mature Christian, which two are uniquely related to leadership authority over the Body?
 - **"able to teach" –authority over the doctrines of the church (1 Tim 3:2)**
 - **and "managing" one's household so as to "care for God's church" (1 Tim 3:4-5)**
- To note the core of Paul's emphasis on unity, let us look to the centrality of love that Jesus expresses about those who are a part of His family/disciples. Read John 13:34-35 and note how behaviour flows from identity.
 - Have someone read the text
 - Who is the standard for our love?
 - **Jesus - "just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (34)**
 - Though we could note various behaviours of obedience that Jesus is calling us to when we are commanded to love one another—feel free if you have time—what specifically do the love of Jesus' followers point towards?
 - **Expressing to others "that you are My disciples" (35)**
- *Reflection: As both 1 Corinthians 12 and John 13 emphasize, Jesus is at the core of who we are and how we ought to live. Reflect on why this unity around the centrality of Jesus is so important.*

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- God is the one who chooses and arranges the members of the Body for the purpose of unity and care (1 Cor 12:25). How does including God in our thinking about how we interact with one another change the way we rejoice when others are honoured? How about how we suffer as one when one member suffers?
- In relation to the comparisons in this chapter (foot and hand, ear, eye, nose), where are you prone to compare yourself with others? Is there a unique situation or concern that tends to bring this comparison practice to mind? How can the Gospel fix our mindset on this issue?
- The unity God brings in the Body is a major theme here, and throughout the epistles (see Rom 3:22; Gal 3:28; Eph 2:13–18; Col 3:11). Since Christ is at the centre of the unity of the church Body, how could you practically bring Christ into the centre of a conflict this coming week/month? **Make it actionable** and not just theoretical. Not necessarily to the group, but note to yourself a key person and conflict that the Holy Spirit would have you bring Christ into the centre of for the sake of unity and joy in love (where Paul is heading in the next chapter).

Leader's Note: after discussing, you can use these prayer prompts after the "GO" section, below.

- **How should we pray in light of our discussion today?**
 - **Thank God for the unity He gives to us in Christ by the Spirit! Pray that God would continue to make us unity as the Body of Christ.**
 - **Pray specifically for those in leadership positions in the Body (elders, pastors, staff, lay leaders—CG leaders!), that God would prepare them well for their roles and responsibilities being the more forward facing members.**
 - **Ask God to highlight where He would have us rejoice and suffer together as the Body.**

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.
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?