



EST. NORTHVIEW 1980  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' 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.  
**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 October 4/5 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 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 – (With answer key + leaders notes)

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"?
    - **Speak in tongues of men and angels (1)**
    - **Prophetic powers (2a)**

- **Understanding all mysteries and all knowledge (2b)**
  - **Faith to remove mountains (2c)**
  - **Give away all (generosity) (3a)**
  - **Deliver body to fire (martyrdom) (3b)**
- **Take a look at 13:4-8a**
  - How does Paul describe love here? How many descriptions do you see?
    - **Patient (4), kind (4), not envious (4), nor boastful (4), not arrogant (4), not rude (5), not insist on its own way (5), not irritable (5), not resentful (5), no rejoice in wrongdoing (6), rejoices with the truth (6), bears all things (7), believes all things (7), hopes all things (7), endures all things (7), and never ends (8).**
- **Take a look at 13:8-13**
  - Paul contrasts love with other temporary things.
    - **What is temporary according to 13:8-9?**
  - Paul illustrates the movement from “partial to complete” in 3 ways. What are they?
    - **The movement in maturity from childhood to manhood.**
    - **The movement in clarity from dimly to face to face.**
    - **The movement in completeness from partially to fully.**
- *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 – (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.**

- 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?
    - **'Love one another as I have loved you' (12)**
  - 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?
    - **Both tie love as an action towards the group of believers**
    - **Both note an eternity for love**
      - **"Love never ends: (1 Cor 13:8)**



- 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).

**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 His loving nature and for the love He gives to us in Christ by the Spirit! Pray that God would continue to make us united in love like He is.**
  - **Pray that our thinking, speaking, and acting would be motivated out of love, due to knowing Him in Christ deeper. Would His love transform us to love one another and the world.**
  - **Ask God to highlight where He would have us love in an area of our lives where we currently are not motivated by love.**

# 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?
- 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!