



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide – Nov 29/30 2025

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

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 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 Nov 29/30 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **Facilitate a brief study of Ps 22**

In Psalm 22, David expresses both his gut feelings surrounding his situation, and yet reminds himself of the truths of God that he knows despite his situation. The Psalm ends with not only hope for David, but a surprising call to something more.

Start the conversation with an "Icebreaker."

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:

Think back to an Advent season or Christmas weekend that was especially meaningful, restful, or even dramatic. What made it stand out to you, and why has it stayed with you?

Study Step 1: Read Psalm 22

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.

- **Take a look at Ps 22:1-21**
 - Verses 1-5 are like a call and response surrounding David's suffering experience as an individual.
 - In verse 1-2 we see David's feelings in hardship. How does He describe God?
 - How does he describe his God in vv 3-5? Note how verse 3 begins (yet). What can we learn from David's way of praying?
 - Verses 6-11 follows a similar pattern: .
 - 6-8 How does humanity treat the person described here?
 - 9-10 In contrast to humanity, what has God done for the sufferer and for how long?
 - What feeling does David describe in verse 11?

- Verses 12-21 further describe the suffering person and his call for God to save him
 - David tells us who lays him in the dust of death in verse 15. What do you learn?
 - Who are his enemies compared to?
 - What do they do?
 - The Psalmist's faith in God is displayed in verse 21. What is he sure of? Note the tense he is using! What do you learn from that?
- **Take a look at Ps 22:22-31**

The Psalmist shifts from his situation towards praise and promise. He calls for all of God's people to join in.

 - To whom will the psalmist speak praise?
 - Who does he call to join into the praise?
 - What two things does he tell them to give praise for?
 - In verses 27-31 the declaration of praise moves beyond God's people towards whom? In verse 27, what will these people recognize and do in their recognition?
 - What will the people of the earth do in response?
- *Reflection question: Despite all the hardship, the psalmist continually points to praising God for who He is and what He has done. Where can you praise God for who He is and what He has done for you?*
- 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.

Psalm 22 is about both David and Jesus. It begins with David's real suffering, but it transcends his experience and prophetically points to Jesus. This is a common pattern in Scripture, where a passage has a dual horizon—an immediate historical context and a future, fuller fulfillment in Christ

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.

- **Read Acts: 2:29-31** and **Acts 5:30-31**, Peter preaches twice and even explains how David's psalms find their fulfillment in Jesus!
- What do we learn about David and his writings?
 - What does Jesus saving work bring about?

- **Read Matthew 20:26-28** What does verse 28 say Jesus has come to do? What does this entail and accomplish?
- All over Jesus' crucifixion Psalm 22 is quoted or alluded to. For example, when Jesus quotes the beginning of Ps 22 in Matthew 27:46 He is not merely quoting that line, but calling to mind all that this Psalm is speaking about: *Himself*, as the context shows.
 - **Have someone read Matthew 27:35-50** (though you could do the same with Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19 if you want to. This is a worthy exercise).
 - How many quotations or allusions can you find to Psalm 22? List them as best you can
- *Reflection question: Since Psalm 22 points towards Jesus Christ, how can intentionally dwelling on the suffering of Jesus, help you share about the meaning of Christmas with others so that all the earth may worship Him as King and Saviour?*
- Take these observations into the next step below.

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- Because of what Jesus has done to save us, where, like Psalm 22, can we praise God despite any hardships we might be facing? Remind yourselves and the group of where God has been faithful, both biblically, and in experiences you have had or heard about.
- Psalm 22 can help us see that we enter into Christmas with Jesus' end in mind. Share some ways in which you intentionally want to slow down this advent to make room in your heart for the story of Jesus. (e.g deleting social media for advent, going on a daily walk etc.)
- As Jesus sees this Psalm as fulfilled in Himself, He takes on the plight of humanity in order to save us. As Christ served us in order to save us, talk about someone whom you can serve this season, in order to bring them some relief and comfort? Make it specific and **actionable** (for example, financially support someone, or decide on helping make Christmas hampers as a community group project, or, invite a friend/colleague who is lonely to a Christmas gathering, make plans to bring someone to the Behold Xmas event etc.)
- Scripture teaches that before conversion we have been "a company of evildoers" who "have pierced my hands and feet." Where do we need to repent for piercing Christ?
- Another way you can respond is by turning these applications into prayer as a group:
 - Thank Him, for who He is and what He has done
 - Praise Him, for unique moments in your life
 - Repent, of where you denied Him or otherwise derided His name by not living in accordance with who He is as Saviour and Lord
 - Ask for help, to see things in light of the promise of Christmas that Christ is Saviour, for boldness to apply this truth

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?