



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' Guide – Nov 29/30 2025

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

This Christmas season we are looking at **'The Promises of Christmas,'** the promises of God found in Jesus Christ. "Christ" is a Greek translation of the Hebrew term for the "Messiah," which means the "Anointed One." Throughout His life, Jesus continuously reveals Himself as this Anointed One. Born a baby in a manger who would be our **Saviour, King, Son, Judge, and Shepherd**. As the series unfolds we will not only see that Jesus fulfills these prophetic roles and promises in His life from manger to his ascension but that by doing so He brings us into relationship with God Himself. That is, Jesus shows us who He is and always has been: God the Son, Saviour, King, Judge, Shepherd. He is who we have always needed. He stepped into the world so that we can draw near to Him, or as we often emphasize at Christmas: His name, Immanuel, *God with us*.

Like any normal study, 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.

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 Nov 29/30 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 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 – (With answer key + leaders notes)

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?
 - **Forsaking him (1)**
 - **Far from saving (1)**
 - **Not answering cries or being close to groaning (2)**

- **“He has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted” (24a)**
 - **“He has not hidden his face from him, but has heard” (24b)**
- 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?
 - **Remember and turn to the LORD (27)**
 - **Feast and worship (29)**
- What will the people of the earth do in response?
 - **Bow before him (29)**
 - **Serve him (30)**
 - **Shall tell of him, and his righteousness, to the next generation (30-31)**
- *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 – (With answer key + leaders notes)

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?
 - **David was a prophet (Acts 2:30)**
 - **He knew God had promised a descendant to sit on his throne (Acts 2:30)**
 - **He foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:31)**
- What does Jesus saving work bring about?
 - **‘Give repentance to Israel’ (Acts 5:31)**
 - **‘And Forgiveness of sins’ (Acts 5:31)**
- **Read Matthew 20:26-28** What does verse 28 say Jesus has come to do? What does this entail and accomplish?
 - **Serve**
 - **Laying down His life willingly**
 - **Redemption (or saving from enslavement)**
- 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

- 'Crucified him' →Ps 22:16
 - 'Divided his garments among them by casting lots' (35) → Ps 22:18
 - 'King of the Jews' (37) → could be connected to Ps 22:28, though in the psalm it is speaking about God being King over the nations.
 - 'Those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads' →Ps 22:6-7
 - 'So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him' (41) →Ps 22:7
 - Mocked him, saying...'He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him' (43) →Ps 22:8
 - 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' → Ps 22:1
- *Reflection question: Since Psalm 22 points towards Jesus Christ, how can intentionally dwelling on the suffering of Jesus help you share with others about the meaning of Christmas 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 supporting 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.

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?