



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' Guide – Jan 17/18 2026

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 Jan 17/18 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 15:1-11**

Start the conversation with an "Icebreaker."

What is the strongest proof/argument that convinces you of the reliability of the Bible or Jesus' resurrection?

Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

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 1 Cor 15:1-2.**
 - What is Paul reminding them of in this section?
 - **The Gospel Paul preached to them (1)**
 - **The apostles "we" preached to them (11)**
 - What is the Corinthians initial relationship to the gospel Paul preached, they...
 - **they received (1a, 11)**
 - **they stand in it (1b)**
 - **They are being saved by it (2a)**
 - **They believed (2b)**
 - In verse 2, what do the Corinthians have to continue to do in order for the gospel to do the ongoing work of saving (what is often called 'sanctification')
 - **Practice - Continually 'Hold fast' to the Gospel message**
 - **Persevere - To not believe 'in vain', they must keep living in accordance with it**

- **Take a look at 1 Corinthians 15:3-11.**
 - Verse 3-4 gives a description of the Gospel that Paul preached, they received, and ought to practice and persevere in. What aspects does He include and what are they in accordance with?
 - **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures**
 - **Jesus was buried and rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures**
 - From verses 5-8 Paul gives a list of the accounts of appearances. List them.
 - **Jesus appeared: to Cephas (Peter) and the twelve, to over 500 at one time, to James, then all the apostles, and lastly, Jesus appeared to Paul.**
 - Before Paul bookends the discussion on the message preached to them (v11), Paul cannot help but reflect on the grace given to him; the same grace received in the Gospel the Corinthians believed! In verses 9-10 how is the Gospel seen in Paul's life?
 - **Though Paul was unworthy, a persecutor of the Church (9)--sinner**
 - **Yet, God, in His grace, changed his identity to Apostle**
 - **By grace, God empowered Paul's behaviour to change (10)**
- *Reflection question:*
Like Paul, and the Corinthians, how has the Gospel story affected your life: identity from sinner to saved by Christ? That is, reflect on your personal salvation. Example: Share testimonies tonight or another time at your group.
- 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 Cor 15:1-2 gives us framework for the life of a disciple here: *believe, receive, practice, persevere*. 1 Thess 2:13-15, highlights the same four:**
 - The Thessalonians heard and *received* the Gospel and its teachings(13), *believing* the Gospel was from God and not a message of man. It produced the *practice* of good works in them (13b), and they were to *persevere*, imitating the churches of Jesus (14) by suffering the same persecution for their faith (14b-15).
 - **Read 1 Thess 2:8-12.** Note the actions of Paul and his fellow leaders. What do they do?
 - **Model Christlike living - labor and toil, working day and night not to burden them (9a), holy and righteous and blameless conduct towards you (10)**
 - **Preach the Gospel of God to them (9b)**
 - **Exhort and encourage them to persevere (12)**
 - **Taught them everything - implied in all they proclaimed about Christ**
- After seeing this pattern in 1 Thess 2—Paul's description of the process of being a disciple of Christ—look to Appendix 1 and 2, where we have a discipleship framework you might find helpful. Discuss in your group what you find helpful or unhelpful with framing discipleship this way.

- Paul's salvation and his mission as an Apostle are evidence of God's grace (1 Cor 15:11). What else does God's grace enable us to do?
 - **Read Titus 2:11-14** What else does God's grace enable us to do?
 - **Has appeared, bringing salvation for all people (11)**
 - **Trains us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions (12)**
 - **Trains us to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age (12)**
 - **Trains us as we wait for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of Jesus (13)**
 - **Purifies for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works (14)**
 - **Read 2 Cor 9:8** How is God's grace evidenced in our financial needs and unto what end?
 - **Make all grace abound to you (2 Cor 9:8a)**
 - **So that we may be sufficiently, at all times, able to do good work (2 Cor 9:8b)**
- *Reflection: When we participate in discipling others (children, friends, co-workers) we will preach, teach, model, and exhort. Where do you currently preach, teach, model, exhort others to be faithful disciples? Where could you?*

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- Where are you currently living out the Gospel identity you have received, 'by which you are being saved'? Examples may include mindsets and behaviors.
- Like Paul, where have you seen the grace of God in your conversion story? What about your ongoing salvation? That is, what is an evidence of God's grace in your life that stands out to you over the years?
- All of us came to believe the Good News at some time. How did you come to first believe? As you move into prayer, take some time to thank God for your personal salvation. Pray for those who are far from God currently.

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?

Appendix 1: Interlinking avenues of discipleship

Leader's Note: Use if helpful for further discussion.

1 Cor 15:1-2 is one place, though you can see parts of this pattern of discipleship in other places like Phil 1:3-11, Matthew 28:18-20, and 1 Thessalonians 2:13-15 (where I originally pulled this framework from).²

Note the interaction: how God works in/through individuals and the corporate Body, Believers respond to God and participate in the Body's work, and the Body receives from God and gives to believers.

God	Calls	Unites in Christ	Sanctifies	Preserves
Disciples	Receive	Believe	Practice	Persevere
We/The Body	Preach	Teach	Model	Exhort
God	Calls	Unites in Christ	Sanctifies	Preserves

3



² In 1 Thess 2:13-15, the Thessalonians heard and *received* the Gospel and its teachings(13), *believing* the Gospel was from God and not a message of man. It produced the *practice* of good works in them (13b), and they were to *persevere*, imitating the churches of Jesus (14) by suffering the same persecution for their faith (14b-15). This is where I initially got my four aspects of personal discipleship: *believe*, *receive*, *practice*, and *persevere*.

³ This is an Ai created image from NotebookLM using Joshua R.'s template.

Appendix 2: Participation in the work of the Church

Preach. Those God Calls, believe.

The Gospel is proclaimed through preaching, teaching, and the ordinances: baptism symbols and testimonies given present the Gospel to others.

In these, God's call is given, and disciples believe.

Teach. Those God Unites in Christ, receive.

The doctrines of the faith are taught through teaching, preaching, and practicing the ordinances. Though others might be taught, those God unites in Christ, receive.

Model. Those God Sanctifies, practice.

Through modelling, the ways of Christ are seen and heard, taught, received, and then practiced. Through practicing, disciples are sanctified by God.

Exhort. Those God Preserves, persevere.

Exhortation is given through edifying, correcting, teaching, preaching, and practicing the ordinances. Disciples persevere till the end by God's preserving power and purposes.

Note:

The language on this page is more formal/corporate to distinguish it from the framework's individual work in discipleship. Do not let this lead you to believe that you do not preach, teach, model, and exhort in various ways as you live out your life as a disciple.