



Community Group Participants' Guide – Dec 20/21 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."
- 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 is one thing you're really burdened with right now? If comfortable, take turns and share one by one.
- What are you praying about right now? How can we join you in 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 Dec 20/21 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **Facilitate a brief study of Ps 110**

In Psalm 110, David speaks about what the LORD speaks to David's Lord, framing this clearly about the Anointed One—David's Lord. In it we see how the Christ will be Judge; through whom God brings ultimate justice.

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:

Sometimes judges can be inconsistent. Share a time where you, or someone you know, might have gotten extra mercy that wasn't deserved, or another time of inconsistency (ex. Parking or speeding fine)?

Study Step 1: Read Psalm 110

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 110:1-3. We will notice God's King.
 - What does God say to David's Lord in verse 1?
 - In verse 2, who will establish God's declaration from verse 1? Through whose kingly scepter?
 - In verse 3, how will the people of God's King respond on this future day?
- **Take a look at Ps 110:4.** We will note God's Priest.
 - What additional oath does God give in verse 4 to David's Lord?

- **Take a look at Ps 110:5-7.** We will notice God's warrior Judge.
 - What will God accomplish for His Priest-King in verses 5 and 6?

 - In verse 7, what will cause God's warrior Judge to 'lift up his head'?

- *Reflection question: How does this Psalm's claims about God's actions bringing both judgement and rest simultaneously give you pause and hope?*

- 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.

Unlike the other Psalms in our series that hint at a future unique Anointed One, here David begins Psalm 110, telling you it is about how God speaks about David's Lord—the Anointed One/Christ. As the last weeks have noted Christ as a unique King, and God's unique Son, here Christ is also the Judge.¹

- Ps 110 is attributed to David continually in the NT, emphasizing that this Psalm is directly linked to the coming Anointed One/Christ.
 - **Read Matthew 22:41-46 and 1 Cor 15:25-26.** Both passages refer to Psalm 110. What do you observe about Jesus' reign?

 - **Have someone read Rev 19:11-21.** John sees Jesus' return: He comes to judge and wage war in righteousness. How are His followers arrayed in Rev 19:14 (compare to Ps 110:3)? What does His word do in Rev 19:15, 21 (compare to Ps 110:5-6)?

- Ps 110 is an important psalm for the New Testament writers. It not only emphasizes David's lord as God's appointed King, but also established by God as high priest after Melchizedek's order.
 - **Have someone read Gen 14:17-20.** Which titles does Melchizedek have? Before he blesses Abraham, what does the priest bring to him?

 - **Have someone read Heb 6:19-7:4, 15-17.** What is emphasized about the names of the priest-king Melchizedek in 7:2? What is emphasized about Melchizedek's origin in 7:3, and how is this used to speak about Jesus' link to Melchizedek's priesthood in 7:15-17?

¹Israel would anoint their kings and high priests with oil, setting them aside for God's purposes; to image God uniquely to the people. Here, the Psalm directly speaks not just to any king, but David's Lord, established by God as king and as a priest forever, who will be God's Judge. No wonder the NT authors saw and taught his Psalm as pointing to Jesus.

- Psalm 110, proceeds from a declaration to future fulfillment. God and His Anointed King act as one to *Judge*.
 - **Have someone read Daniel 12:1-4 and Matthew 3:11-12.** In Daniel's vision of God's coming Judgement what two fates are established for people? In speaking against the Pharisees about the coming wrath of God, what similar contrast does John the Baptist preach in terms of salvation?
 - **Read Romans 12:17-21 and James 4:10-12.** Given Christ's role as kingly Judge, how can we apply this knowledge to our human affairs?
- *Reflection question: Psalm 110 highlights Jesus as Priest-King who is Judge over the wicked, healing the sick, judging his enemies and saving sinners. Reflect on how Jesus' crucifixion both heals/saves, and brings judgement against the wicked.*
- 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.

- How could you follow after Jesus in purity of life this coming week? Where might you need to repent of what ought not be done, or repent of not doing what we ought to do as freed people in the Son, King, Saviour and Judge (themes of the last few sermons)?
- Seeing how the New Testament uses the Psalms so frequently, what do you learn about the importance of understanding the Old Testament?
- God desires that none should perish when Christ comes to Judge the wicked. Pray for the repentance of our nation, friends, family, etc. List those God puts on your heart and pray through them as a group.
- Further prayer opportunities as a group, or individually:
 - We're covering the entire 24 hours leading up to the first of twelve services happening on December 24 with prayer for Christmas Eve! Commit to a 15 minute prayer slot – or several! – between 11:00am on the 23rd and 11:00am on the 24th.) **Register online so you will receive a Christmas Eve Prayer Guide!**
 - **Put Dec 23rd 6pm** in your calendar. You're invited to come to Downes Road and spend time together with others in prayer to lift the Christmas services up to God!

- Though Jesus will come as Judge, until that Day comes, we have a great—and low bar—opportunity as Christians to proclaim the gospel tangibly at our weekly services. This is especially important for next week's Christmas Eve services. Many people will gladly come to a Christmas Eve service. If you only invite them once this year, this is the time to do it!
 - Pray and plan about who you can invite to one of Christmas Eve services this coming week? Call or message them and invite as early as when your group ends, so that many may join in with Ps 110:3 as those who “volunteer freely” to be Jesus’ people.

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?

- *Opportunities to be a part of Christmas Outreach and Evangelism (see northview.org for more info):*