



Community Group Participant Guide – Dec 6/7 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 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 6/7 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **Facilitate a brief study of Ps 45**

Though the love song, Psalm 45, starts by speaking about the earthly king of Israel, it shifts to speak about God as King. Yet, even here it speaks of God as ruling personally as a human king. Due to this, Psalm 45 has always been seen, like Psalm 22 last week, as speaking about the future Christ—a future unique human who would come to rule and care for the People of God righteously in a golden age.

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:

There are many Christmas carols that relate to Jesus as King. How many can you list and which one is your favorite? Maybe you can sing a few later in your meeting!

Study Step 1: Read Psalm 45

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 45:1-5.**
 - The context shows the Korahites, levites in the service of the Temple who were involved in the music, as the writers of this Psalm. What is this Psalm described as in verse 1, and who are the worship leaders' writing about?
 - How is the king described in verses 2-5?
- **Take a look at Ps 45:6-9**
 - Who is addressed in verse 6 as the king? How is His rule described in verses 6-7?

- Who anoints God as King?

- In celebration, what royal aspects are mentioned in verse 8 and 9?

- **Take a look at Ps 45:9-15.**
 - As the love song shifts from the king to the queen 'in gold of Ophir' (9), and the telling of their marriage, whom is she to forget?

 - Connected to the king, what does she instead gain?

- **Take a look at Ps 45:16-17**

As the Psalm ends, the King is addressed as central to a lasting dynasty.

 - What is contrasted generationally by this king in verse 16?

 - In verse 17, instead of the past fathers, nor the coming sons, whose name will be remembered 'in all generations'? Who is included in this remembering?

- *Reflection question: If we are the Bride, leaving family to be united to King Jesus, how might this Psalm teach us how we ought to act towards King Jesus?*

- 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 45 begins with describing the king of Israel, but it transcends such a simple description and prophetically points to Jesus as the Promised King, both God and anointed—or in context here crowned¹—by God. As this Advent series shows, 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.

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, as king, God anoints Him king, but as it points to a divine King, this is also The Anointed One, or the unique God-man, and not merely a king—an anointed one. Some commentators want to soften what is implied here, but the grammar verifies this reading. No wonder the NT authors saw and taught his Psalm as pointing to Jesus.

- The God-man (the Christ) King is not only described in Psalm 45, but also foretold in Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 1:30-33.

Have someone read Isaiah 9:6-7 and Luke 1:30-33. Note the connections with Psalm 45

- How is the coming child described?
 - How is the kingdom of this child described?
 - Who will establish this Kingdom through this child?
 - Along with Jesus, what does Gabriel say He is to be called?
 - What similarities to Psalm 45 do you notice?
- When God anoints the Anointed one in Ps 45:7-8 certain oils and spices are described. Travel through some of these known passages to see how they connect this to Christ. .

Have someone read Matthew 2:9-11 and Matthew 26:6-13.

- In Matt 2:9-11 what gifts were given to Jesus? Where in Psalm 45 do you see a similar list?
- What does the woman do to Jesus before his death?

Have someone read Mark 15:22-26 and John 19:39-42.

- The only time “Myrrh and aloes” (Ps 45:7) are linked together in the NT is in John 19:39. What is the significance of it?
 - Seeing all the links we have established so far with myrrh’s connection to royalty, what does this imply about Jesus in his death?
- One time, Paul and Silas visited Jason in Thessalonica and got in trouble for preaching in the synagogue.
Read Acts 17:6-7.
 - What is the charge the leaders bring up against Paul and his followers? What were they accused of preaching?

- Now **turn to John 18:33-37** and **read** through **Colossians 1:13-20**. What do you learn about Jesus' kingdom ?
- *Reflection question: With an even fuller view of Jesus as King, how does this grow your confidence being a member of His everlasting kingdom? Take some time to share thoughts, verses, ideas on how Jesus' kingdom is different and what that means for you as royal family members of his kingdom!*
- 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 can we follow the examples of the wise men, or the woman, in Matthew 26 who brought gifts to King Jesus as an act of their worship and awe. Where in your life might the Spirit be calling you to honor Christ as King in a tangible way this season? Try and give specific action steps for the upcoming weeks.
 - (examples might be supporting a missionary or ministry, donating time, talents, treasures to love the lonely and poor, blessing someone who has little or participating in Christmas hampers, or giving to the building campaign).
- In Christ we also become part of the royal Family of God. Spend time reflecting on and giving thanks for the Church family, encourage one another in your group and share what blessing each person has been to you.
- Despite how it may seem, Jesus is King over all things: the universe, the future, the personal, the cultural, all suffering, etc. As King He knows, understands, cares, and has a plan to address our concerns. Let us not be unwilling to come to our righteous, gracious, approachable King. Pray as a group around these concerns.
 - A great prayer to pray is Jesus' prayer "May your kingdom come".
 - Perhaps you can spend some time listening to a Christmas hymn that elevates Christ as King

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):*

