



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' 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."
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 in 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 Dec 20/21 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 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 – (With answer key + leaders notes)

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?
 - **'Sit at My right hand until I make your enemies your footstool' (1b)**
 - In verse 2, who will establish God's declaration from verse 1? Through whose kingly scepter?
 - **'The LORD sends'... (2a)**
 - **'Send forth....your mighty scepter' (2b)**
 - In verse 3, how will the people of God's King respond on this future day?
 - **'Offer themselves freely' (3a)**

- **In holiness/purity - 'in holy garments' (3b)**
- **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?
 - **'You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek' (4b)**
- **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?
 - **'Shatter kings on the day of His wrath' (5b)**
 - **'Execute judgement on the nations' (6a)**
 - In verse 7, what will cause God's warrior Judge to 'lift up his head'?
 - **Restored through a 'drink from the brook by the way' (7a)**
- *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 – (With answer key + leaders notes)

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

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.

- 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?
 - **That the Christ is no mere human son of David, but David's Lord—Both above David in authority and before Him in time (Matt 22:43-46)**
 - **Note how the Pharisees cannot answer without acknowledging the Christ as divine, so they keep quiet.²**
 - **Christ's reign over all things is established and ongoing forevermore and all his enemies will be brought under his feet (1 Cor 15:25-26).**
 - **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)?
 - **'Arrayed in fine linen' 'white and pure' (19:14)**
 - **ruling over them 'with a rod of iron' (15b)**

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.

² Since Ps 110 was accepted as messianic, and since the enthronement language could not be denied, nor the Davidic lineage ignored, it implied Jesus' answer that Christ is divine (22:46).

- **'Strike' (19:15) or 'slay' the rulers and people aligned with the Beast and false prophet (19:20-21).**
- 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?
 - **King of Salem: in Hebrew, Shalom, which means peace (18)**
 - **Priest of God Most High'-a name given to Yahweh by the patriarchs) (18)**
 - **Bringing bread and wine (18b)**
 - **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?
 - **Like the Priest-King Jesus' titles, he is: 'King of righteousness' and 'king of peace' (7:2)**
 - **Like Jesus, Melchizedek has no recorded beginning or end (7:3)**
 - **Likewise, Jesus has 'become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life' (16)**
- 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?
 - **'Some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt' (Dan 12:2)**
 - **Baptize with the Holy Spirit to save-'gather his wheat into His barn' (Matt 3:12a)**
 - **Baptize with fire, eternal judgement-'the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire' (12b)**
 - **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?
 - **Do not take personal revenge — justice belongs to God alone (Rom 12:19).**
 - **Respond to evil with good, not retaliation (Rom 12:20-21).**
 - **Approach justice with humility before God (Jas 4:10).**
 - **Do not place yourself as judge over others — God alone judges rightly (Jas 4:12)**
- *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):*