



Community Group Leaders' Guide – Dec 13/14 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 Dec 13/14 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 2**
Psalm 2 speaks about the nations raging against God and his anointed king. Yet, it continues to speak of this anointed one as a unique Son whom God will give all the earth, ending the psalm by giving a warning for the nations to honour the Son as they honour God. As we heard this week, this is no mere son, but Jesus the Son.

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:

You've probably heard the saying, 'Like father, like son.' Would you say this applies to your relationship with your parents? Which parent do you think you resemble most? If you have children, which of them most closely resembles you?

Study Step 1: Read Psalm 2

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 2:1-3.**
 - Who are the nations against in verse 2?
 - **The LORD and His Anointed (2)**
 - In verse 3, what do the nations and their rulers say in their raging plot?
 - **'Let us burst their bonds' (3a) -deny their authority over them.**
- **Take a look at Ps 2:4-6**
 - How does 'the Lord' respond in verse 4-5 to their vain plots of rage?

- 'Laughs' (4a)
 - Scoffs at their denial (4b)
 - What does He say in response to their statement (3) in v 6?
 - "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill" (6)
- **Take a look at Ps 2:7-9.** God's statement, here, is not merely a response, but a decree on a cosmic level.
 - What has God declared about the speaker of the Psalm in verse 7?
 - 'You are my Son' (7)
 - Despite the nation's plotting against God's authority, what far-reaching 'heritage' and 'possession' will God give this Son in verse 8?
 - 'The nations' and 'The ends of the earth' (8)
- **Take a look at Ps 2:10-12.** As the Psalm ends, the LORD and the Son are put in parallel through how the rulers are warned to be wise towards each of them.
 - In verse 11, the rulers are warned to wisely act towards the LORD in which two ways?
 - 'Serve the LORD with fear' (11a)
 - 'Rejoice with trembling' (11b)
 - In verse 12, what are the two ways they are to act out this same reverent fear towards the Son?
 - 'Kiss the son' (12a)
 - 'Take refuge in him' (12b)
 - As rightful fear of the 'LORD' brings rejoicing (11b), what will rightful fear and reverence of the Son bring in verse 12?
 - 'Blessing' (12b)
- *Reflection question: If fear of the LORD and the Son is a good thing, where might this change how we act out the way of Christ this Christmas?*
- 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 2 begins with describing God and His Anointed, but it transcends such a simple description of any king and prophetically points to Jesus as the Promised Son (Ps 2:7). As last week noted the Anointed One as a unique King, here there is an emphasis on this King as God's unique Son established by God to rule cosmically over all.¹ 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 the anointed king, God's treatment as a son, and yet as it points to a divine King/Son relationship, 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.

- Psalm 2 is strongly linked to David's promised offspring in 2 Samuel 7, and is picked up by the NT authors.
 - **Have someone read 2 Samuel 7:8-16.** Despite not deserving it, what has God done for David in verse 8? What unique promise is given in verse 14 about the promised son?
 - 'I took you from the pasture...and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. (8)
 - 'I will be his father, and he will be my son.' (14) - It's a covenantal promise of intimacy, identity, and divine favor.
 - **Have someone read Matthew 1:1-6, 17 and Luke 3:38 .** What is Matthew trying to prove at the beginning of his Gospel? What does Luke in addition emphasize?
 - Matthew shows that Jesus is the Christ, the son descending from Abraham and David
 - Luke calls him 'The Son of God', showing Jesus is divine
 - **Have someone read Acts 13:26-34a.** Paul, similar to the writer of Psalm 2, addresses God-fearing listeners. In what ways is Psalm 2 fulfilled in his sermon in Acts 13?
 - You who fear God' (26)... 'Salvation has been sent' (26b). NOTE: This fulfills Ps 2:11-12 where fearing God and the message of the Son brings blessing to those who receive.
 - Rejoic[ing]' (Ps 2:11b) for those who serve (Ps 2:11a) and 'blessing' for those who 'take refuge in him' (Ps 2:12b)
- Jesus and the NT authors describe Jesus as the Son, announcing both his future rule and plan to save those who 'take refuge' (Ps 2:12) in Him.
 - Read **Mark 2:3-12** and **Mark 14:61-62.** What is Jesus doing in these passages and what title is He claiming as he is confronted by those in opposition?
 - Jesus heals a paralytic and forgives him of his sin (2:5,10-11)
 - Jesus is using the title "Son of Man" for Himself (2:10)
 - Jesus claims to be the Christ, the Son of God (Mk 14:62)
 - The title "Son of Man" comes from Daniel 7:13-14. **Have someone read Daniel 7:13-14.** Who is the Son approaching and what does he receive? Who ends up worshipping him?
 - To 'Ancient of Days' (God) and in his presence. (7:13b)
 - Receives Authority, Glory and Sovereign power (7:14)
 - 'All nations and peoples of every language' (Note the parallel to Ps. 2:8)
 - Read **Mark 10:45** and **John 3:13-15.** Sent from the Father, what has Jesus, the Son come to do?
 - The Son is giving his life for many (10:45)
 - The Son will be lifted up (3:14)
 - The Son will bring salvation, 'eternal life' (John 3:15)
- As Ps 2:12 notes, we are to take refuge in the Son, receiving blessing. The NT authors pick up on this.
 - **Read Eph 1:3-6, and Rev 21:6-7.** What do these passages teach us about our relationship with the Father?
 - God adopted us to Himself as sons through Jesus (Eph 1:5)
 - God blessed us, chose us and loves us (Eph. 1:4)
 - To those who hold fast until the end, God declares himself to be a Father of. 'I [God] will be his father, and he will be My son' (Rev 21:7).
 - **Read Hebrews 12:7-11 and Romans 8:29** Why does God discipline us (as sons)? What is the telos (end goal) of God's choosing of his children—whom should they resemble?
 - The goal of God's fatherly discipline is that we would share in His holiness—to become more like Him. (12:10)

- **As we are conformed to Christ (Rom 8:29), we too begin to reflect God's character more and more.**

- *Reflection question: As both God the Son, and rightful human ruler over all Creation, where might a reverent fear of Him lead you into serving and loving him differently this coming year?*
- 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 has this series, highlighting how the Psalms prophetically speak about Jesus, encouraged you around the reliability of the Scriptures? How could you use these, and other prophetic texts, to encourage and challenge believers and skeptics alike?
- In reflection of Ps 2:10-12 command, ask the Lord to give you a reverent fear of Him, an awe that leads to worshipful action. Where this month could you live out this awe/kiss the Son? A practical way could be prayer! (e.g. 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!**
- For parents: How does knowing about God's love for his children impact how you parent? (e.g. in disciplining or affirming your children). Spend time to talk about ways you can encourage your child(ren) to see and experience our heavenly Father's care for them?
- If the nations are Jesus' inheritance as the Son, we can boldly and actively affect the world as sons of God. A great opportunity for us as a church is to proclaim the gospel tangibly at our Christmas services? **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!

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):*