



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leaders' Guide – Feb 21/22 2026

GATHER + 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 Feb 21/22 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 16:5-24**

Start the conversation with an 'Icebreaker.'

Back when I wrote a lot of physical What was the most memorable or unique letter you have received or written?

Study Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-24

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 16:5-9**

- Concerning Paul's traveling itinerary, what two reasons affect his staying with them in the near future?
 - **'If the Lord permits' (7)**
 - **Staying in Ephesus due to 'a wide door for effective work' (9)**
- Why does Paul not simply want to pass through?
 - **Paul desires relationship: an extended time with them (7a), and 'So that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go (6)**
- **Take a look at 1 Cor 16:10-18.** In speaking about their care for his ministry, Paul mentions others.
 - What do we learn about Timothy in verses 10-11?
 - **Timothy seems uneasy/timid: Paul asks for ease (10a) and peace (11b) for him**
 - **Might be disrespected, or young in leading: 'Let no one despise him' (11a)**
 - In light of Apollos' delay, how ought the Corinthians act?
 - **"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong, let all that you do be done in love" (13-14)**
 - The household of Stephanas is interjected into what call given by Paul?
 - **"I urge you, brothers...be subject to such as these and to every fellow worker and laborer" (15-16)**
- **Take a look at 1 Cor 16:19-23.**
 - Paul cannot help but mention so many others who are united in the love of Christ. What does Paul describe as the state of those who have no love for Christ?
 - **'Let him be accursed' (22)**
- *Reflection question: Reflect on who the key Timothy, Apollos, and Stephanas' household were for you? How have you, or could you, learn from and 'be subject to' (1 Cor 16:16) people such as these?*
- 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.

- Though Paul calls the Corinthians to be subject to 'every fellow worker and laborer' in ministry, this is not a blanket endorsement of all who merely claim to be Christian leaders.
Read 1 Timothy 3:1-14 (cf. Tit 1:5-9) to read about the qualifications of church leaders (elders and deacons).
 - List the qualifications of elders
 - List the qualifications of deacons
 - Bonus: What opposites do you see, or negative examples from false leaders (Titus 1:10-16 pinpoints the ways of those in the culture)?
- **For further study on your own:**
 - **Read Romans 16:1-16.** Like 1 Corinthians, Romans emphasize the united nature of Christians as God's family. Count and compare the number of references to people and uses of 'greet ____.'

- Though it might seem harsh to state that those who do not love Christ are accursed (1 Cor 16:22), this is simply the state of those who do not love God. **Compare with John 1:9-13, 3:16-19.**
- *Reflection:* In light of the responsibility of leaders to hold us to account, emphasize the unity and care of Christ's Church, where could you come alongside by caring for the Church this month?

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- Paul both makes wise plans to link his life with God's will, and trusts God's will with those plans. Where could you be making plans to align your heart and your life actions in accordance with God's will?

Leader's Note: There are mainly 2 wills of God within the Scriptures. The general, or moral will of God—be like Him and obey His ways, and the specific, or sovereign will of God—what comes to pass according to His own good purposes. Often we cannot know the specific will of God, but we can all make plans to work and live within His general will. This question emphasizes what we can know, general will, and work within that—'try your best and trust God with the rest.'

- Paul encourages us in this closing to submit to godly leaders for our good growth. Where do you need to submit to God's rightful authority this month/year? Is there a specific area where you need to submit (giving, time set aside for prayer, Bible study, your temper, etc)?
- Just like these leaders, Paul calls all of us to stand firm in the faith, being watchful, in love. Where could you mimic godly leaders by serving Christ's Church this year in a new and/or deeper way? Give a specific **action step for you**.
(Some examples include: Sign up to be a greeter, coffee server. Set aside time every week to call a fellow believer to encourage them in faith. Take time going out of your way to pick up someone who has mobility or mental health concerns that keep them from getting to the gathering each week).
- Paul spoke about many others doing ministry alongside him. Take time praying for Northview's leaders (elders, pastors, staff, community group leaders), our training of new leaders (MAP, Immerse, missionaries), as well as other churches doing the work of the Gospel.

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?