



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leader's Guide – Mar 14/15 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 March 14/15 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 2 Cor 2:5-11**
Start the conversation with an 'Icebreaker.'
What is the biggest story of forgiveness and restoration you have experienced?

Study Step 1: Read 2 Corinthians 2:5-11

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 2 Cor 2:5-11.**
 - What were the repercussions of the man under discipline Paul refers to here?
 - **He caused not just Paul pain, but he harmed the whole body (2:5)**
 - **He endured punishment from the majority (2:6)**
 - According to Paul, how should the Corinthians continue in discipline? Why?
 - **Turn (2:7)**
 - **Forgive (2:7)**
 - **Comfort (2:7)**
 - **Reaffirm their love (2:8)**
 - **In order that the person would not be overwhelmed by sorrow (2:7)**
 - Paul reaffirms the purpose of his letter to the Corinthians. What is he wanting to see?
 - **He tests them to see whether he they are obedient in everything (2:9)**
 - Summarise verses 10 and 11. What do you notice?
 - **If they forgive, Paul will forgive. (2:10)**
 - **Paul forgives for their sake, knowing Christ is present (2:10)**
 - **This is so that Satan would not have an opening to outwit the church (2:11)**
- *Reflection question: Who do you think was mostly harmed by the person in question who caused "all this pain" (Remember Paul spoke of another painful visit). What are some of the incentives to forgive in this text?*
- 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.

- **For further study on your own:**
 - *Church discipline:* Have someone read **Matthew 18:15-20**. How should church discipline be conducted? What does it mean to "let someone be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector?" **1 Corinthians 5:1-13**. What seems to be the issue in this text? (v 1-2, v 11-12) Who are the Corinthians supposed to judge, according to this text? What is the purpose of their actions, according to this text? **Turn back to 2 Corinthians 2:5-11** - How does Paul correct excesses of church discipline in these verses? How can people be restored? What danger is present to the church if people aren't willing to forgive those they have disciplined ?
 - **Forgiveness:** Look up the following verses on the topic of forgiveness. Discuss the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation and try to look at the why behind forgiveness according to these texts and their context! **Ephesians 4:31-32, Matthew 6:14-15, Romans 12:17-19, Colossians 3:12-13 and Matthew 18:21-22.**

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- What is your experience with church discipline? Do you know what it is? Should the church do it lightly? Is the principle here to discipline anyone who sins? Try to come up with a wise "policy" that honors Paul's commands to discipline while also staying true to his intention of it.
- Forgiveness plays a huge role in this text. Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? How was your journey with it? Why was it difficult for you?
- Like Paul, how can a church practically reaffirm their love for someone. In what ways can we comfort them?

- The text also talks about Satan and his schemes to outwit us. Spend time talking through ways in which the enemy tries to sneak in and accuse and tempt us. Then spend time in prayer for one another, that God would deliver you from any specific evil!

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?