



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980  
**COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Community Group Guide – Mar 7/8 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 7/8 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 1:12-2:4**  
Start the conversation with an 'Icebreaker.'  
**What is your biggest miscommunication pet peeve?**

### **Study Step 1: Read 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4**

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 1:12-14.**
  - What guides the actions of Paul, and should be the guide, for Christians? Who will we boast before upon a good conscious?
    - **One's conscious before Christ (12, 14)**
- **Take a look at 2 Cor 1:15-22.**
  - Along with a good conscience, what does living like Christ lead one to saying either \_\_\_ or \_\_\_? What does this imply about the unity of one's speech and actions?
    - **Yes or no; Christians have integrity in what they say and what they do.**
  - In Christ, the guiding principle of the Christian is always, what?
    - **Yes! - We cannot lose, for God is for us in Christ and guides us for our good.**
  - Paul's perceived fickleness was not a lack of integrity, but because of God guiding them elsewhere. What things stand out to Paul that God has established in the 'yes' of Christ (21-22)?
    - **'Established us with you in Christ' (Leader's note: 'in Christ' is a phrase used especially by Paul to note one's unity in Christ through the Gospel. A new identity as Christian/new humanity as God's people.)**
    - **Established Paul and his comrades as leaders: 'anointed us' 'sealed us' gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge'**
- **Take a look at 2 Cor 1:23-2:4.**
  - Though there is assurance in Christ of Paul's ministry as an apostle, Paul wants the Corinthians to understand why his original plans did not work out how they, or he, planned. The 'yes' in Christ of Paul not visiting was instead for what purposes?
    - **'To spare you' (23) - conflict, possibly rebuke?**
    - **'For your joy' (24b)**
  - Despite hard and strong words being shared, what motive does Paul give in 2 Cor 2:4 for his previous letter?
    - **To know how deep a love he has for them**
- *Reflection question: Though we have the promise of hardship, we also have the promise that God is working for our good—all the promises of God find their Yes in [Christ]. What promise do you need to rest more deeply in during this coming week?*
- 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:**
  - **Read Matthew 5:33-37** and see how Paul in 2 Corinthians 1:12-19 is echoing, and applying, the teachings of Jesus. Contrast the teachings and point out any similarities, differences.
  - Paul is going to "boast" a lot in this book (this word comes up over 20 times)! **Look up** the following verses and take note of what it teaches about boasting: **Judges 7:1-3, 1 Samuel 2:3, Jeremiah 9:23-24, Romans 15:14-19** (especially verse 17) & **1 Thessalonians 2:17-20.**
  - **Look up** the following verses to see some of the promises Paul is referring to (these are the three primary Old Testament promises, but there are more)! **Genesis 12:1-7** - What promises does God make to Abraham and how are they "Yes" (fulfilled) in Christ? **2 Samuel 7:1-16 (especially v 12-16)** and **Psalms 89:3-4.** What promises does God make to David and how are they "Yes" in Christ?

**Ezekiel 36:24-27** What promises does God make to the nation of Israel and how are they “Yes” in Christ?

### Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- Living like Christ is to live with intense integrity. This is hard. Where do you need to grow in consistency and integrity? Pray these hard prayers as a group.
- Paul, though clear on sin, wishes to not bring pain that might cause a rift between him and the church, ‘For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained’ (2 Cor 2:2). Do you live this way? Is there someone you need to reconcile with for their good and God’s glory?
- Like Paul, out of love, where might there be hard words needed for the good of another Christian? Give yourself a timeframe to ensure your integrity that these hard conversations happen.
- As we saw last week, the comfort God brings in the Gospel is like a flame, which can be brought and shared amongst Christians. Paul also speaks of joy in Christ being shared in 2 Cor 2:3. Where is there joy that you could share in as a group this week? Personally, are there others you need to bring into this joy?

## 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.**

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- 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?

## Appendix 1: What happened before 2 Corinthians? - Context to the 'painful letter' of 2 Cor 2:1-4

- AD 33 - Jesus was crucified & resurrected. The Christian mission begins
- AD 50 (Spring) Paul arrives in Corinth for the 1st time and the Corinthian Church begins to meet
- AD 51 (Fall) Paul leaves Corinth and ministers in Ephesus
- AD 52 Paul receives news from Corinth and writes a letter to them (1 Cor 5:9) which they read, but which has not survived
- AD 53 The Corinthians respond to Paul's letter, and Paul writes back. This letter survived - It is called 1 Corinthians.  
Timothy delivers this letter to Corinth on behalf of Paul & discovers that the church is in disarray.
- AD 54 Paul travels to Corinth to see things for himself and there is some sort of confrontation. Paul calls this the "painful visit" (2 Cor 2:1).  
Paul returns to Ephesus. He receives more bad news about the Corinthian church and writes the "painful letter" (2 Cor 2:2-4). Titus delivers this letter to Corinth. This letter also did not survive.
- AD 54 Paul leaves Ephesus, ministers in Troas and Macedonia, and sends them another letter which survived - 2 Corinthians.

