



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

**Community Group Leader's Guide – Mar 28/29 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 28/29 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 3:1-11**  
**Start the conversation with an 'Icebreaker.'**  
**What is the biggest story of forgiveness and restoration you have experienced?**

### **Study Step 1: Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-11**

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 3:1-6.**
  - What is the point of Paul's rhetorical question in verse 1? What kind of letter is he talking about?
    - **He talks about self commendation (3:1a)**
    - **Some people bring letters of commendation or reference to make something of themselves (3:1b)**
  - What kind of letter does Paul have in verses 2-3?
    - **The Corinthians, a letter written on his own heart (3:2)**
  - How did the "Corinthian letter" come about? Who reads this letter? List as much as you can!
    - **The letter (aka the Corinthian church) comes from Christ (3:3:a)**
    - **The church is a result of Paul's ministry (3:3:a)**
    - **Not human, but spiritual (3:3a)**
    - **Not on tablets of stone but, on human hearts (3:3b)**
    - **They are known and "read" by everyone (3:2)**
  - Where does Paul get his "qualifications" and confidence from?
    - **His confidence comes from Christ, from God (3:4)**
    - **His competence comes from God, not himself (3:5)**
  - Read verse 6 in the message translation, what is Paul's point here?
    - **His ministry is not law and death, but Spirit and life (3:6)**
- **Take a look at 2 Cor 3:6-11.**
  - What are the two ministries or governments Paul talks about? Compare their differences
    - **Ministry of death - carved in letters of stone (3:7)**
    - **Ministry of condemnation (3:9a)**
    - **brought an end (3:11a)**
    - **Ministry of the Spirit (3:8)**
    - **Ministry of righteousness (3:9b)**
    - **Ministry that is permanent (3:11b)**
  - Which of these ministries brings more glory?
    - **The ministry of Spirit and righteousness (3:8, 10)**
- *Reflection question: What does Paul mean when he talks about letters of recommendation and a "ministry of glory"? How might practices and values in Greco-Roman culture help us interpret these ideas?*
- 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:**
  - *He has made us competent as ministers of a **new covenant**.* Theologically a covenant is an agreement which brings about a relationship of commitment between God and His people. Look up the following verses to note what you learn about the 'old' covenant and the 'new'. **Exodus 24:1-12.** What material was this covenant recorded on? How / where does Paul reference this in today's text? **Jeremiah 31:31-34.** How does God describe the new covenant which He will make **Luke 22:13-23.** What action set this new covenant in motion? **1 Corinthians 11:17-35.** How is the Corinthian church (and all churches) supposed to celebrate and remember this new covenant? **Hebrews 9:11-15.** What has Jesus accomplished on our behalf? What is Jesus' role in this new covenant?

- **Glory:** George Guthrie notes that God's glory is directly related to His mighty acts on behalf of His people. Take a look at these passages from the OT to learn more about God's glory: **Isaiah 35:1-4, Ezekiel 39:21-29, Exodus 40:34-38, Isaiah 40:1-5**
- **The Ministry that brought death vs the Ministry of Righteousness.** In many New Testament letters Paul reflects on the difference between the 'Old Covenant' or 'Old Ministry' (which is mediated by Moses, who communicated the demands of God's Law), and the 'New Covenant' or 'New Ministry' (which is mediated by Jesus, who fulfilled the demands of God's Law). Read the following passages to see how these two ministries are contrasted in scripture.  
**Read Romans 3:19-26.** What is the purpose of the law? How are people made righteous? **Romans 7:7-12, 21-25.** What is the purpose of the law? What is the "effect" of the law? How do people typically respond to the law because of our sin nature? How is the law described by Paul? What adjectives does he use to describe it? **Romans 8:1-11** How are we set free from the law of sin and death? What is Jesus' role in setting people free? What is the Holy Spirit's role in setting people free?

#### 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 letters of recommendation? In what areas of church today could we be tempted to look for such letters that legitimize authority?
- Would you describe yourself as confident? Where in your life do you have the most confidence and conviction? Why is that? Where in your life do you feel least confident? Choose a verse from today's text and meditate on it this week!
- This passage also talks about competence. Elsewhere in Scripture we see Paul preaching so long that a man fell asleep and died. When looking at his persecutions and trials, how competent would we say Paul was? In the end Paul knew that his competence came from the Lord. Spend some time to encourage one another and share a character trait or gift God has given each one in your group and thank God in prayer for that!
- What does this discussion teach you about God's glory? In 2 Corinthians 3:18, Paul states that we are transformed as we 'contemplate the Lord's glory', how could the Holy Spirit use glory to transform you?

# 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?