



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leader's Guide – April 11/12 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 April 11/12 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 3:12-18**
Start the conversation with an 'Icebreaker.'
If you could time-travel and see one miracle or display of God's glory from the Bible with your own eyes, which story would you pick and why?

Study Step 1: Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

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 3:12-16.**
 - Re-read 2 Corinthians 3:7-11. What is the hope Paul refers to in 3:12?
 - **The New covenant brings greater glory than the old (3:8)**
 - **The ministry of the Spirit brings us righteousness and life (3:9)**
 - According to Paul, what comes as a response to this hope?
 - **Boldness (3:12)**
 - When Moses received the old covenant law he radiated in glory and veiled himself. What did that mean for Israel according to Paul? What does the veil do to this day? (3:13-15)
 - **It prevented Israel from seeing the glory (3:13)**
 - **“Moses was protecting the people from a dire consequence if they gazed continually at the reflected glory of God radiating from his face. The telos of the glory on Moses’ face does not refer to some purpose or goal, or to Christ, but to consequences. It concerns the death that divine glory inflicts upon “hardened hearts.”**
David E. Garland, [2 Corinthians](#), Bd. 29, The New American Commentary, 187–188.
 - **Their minds are hardened (3:14)**
 - **The same veil lies on their hearts whenever the law is read (3:15)¹**
 - What needs to happen in order for the veil to be lifted?
 - **When one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed (3:16).**
- *Reflection question: How does repentance (“turning to the Lord”) contrast to Israel who is unable to behold the glory? Why is the veil lifted?*
- **Take a look at 2 Cor 3:17-18.**
 - What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in these verses:
 - **The Spirit is Lord (3:17a)**
 - **Where the Spirit is there is freedom (3:17b)**
 - **The Spirit does turn us from one degree of glory to another (3:18)**
 - Read verse 18 in the message translation. Compare this reality to Moses.
 - **We’re free of it! All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him. (3:18)**
- *Reflection question: How do these truths create boldness? If you remember the glory culture in Corinth where only rich, mighty, eloquent leaders were followed and praised, how does this affect Paul and his reputation as well as the Corinthian church?*
- Take these observations into the next step below.

¹ “The veil of Moses makes it possible for the glory of God to be in the midst of the people, albeit now mediated through Moses, without destroying them.” The veil expresses God’s judgment: God’s reflected glory must be veiled because of their sinful state, otherwise it would have destroyed them. The veil also expresses God’s mercy. It makes possible for the glory of God to be brought into the midst of the people through Moses. David E. Garland, [2 Corinthians](#), Bd. 29, The New American Commentary

Study Step 3: Connect To God's Story –

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:**
 - *Moses' face*: In our text, Paul is referencing an Old Testament story in order to make a point. It's important to understand the original story in order to understand what he is teaching. **Read Exodus 34:27-35.** Where was Moses as this text begins? How long was he there? Why was Moses' face radiant in this text? How did people respond to the radiance of Moses' face? When did Moses veil his face? When did Moses unveil his face?
 - *The Holy Spirit*. Paul is referring to the Spirit as Lord, who brings freedom and moves us from. Study and look up the following Scriptures to learn about the person and work of the Holy Spirit. **John 14:16–17, John 16:13–14, Acts 1:8, Acts 5:3–4, Romans 8:12–27, 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, Galatians 5:22–23.**

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- Take some time to reflect on the theme of *boldness*. Where in your life do you sense a need for boldness? In what ways does the church need to be more bold? What dangers lie in prideful confidence that easily can be mistaken for righteous boasting
- This Text talks about the Spirit of God as Lord. How comfortable are you with that language? What is your relationship with the Holy Spirit like?
- In 2 Corinthians 3:18, Paul states that we are transformed as we 'contemplate the Lord's glory' ("beholding the glory of the Lord,[e] are being transformed") In what area of your life do you wish the Holy Spirit transformed you? Your head (thoughts), heart (affections) or your hands (actions)?
- Spend some time praying to the Lord, thanking him for taking the veil of our hearts and minds.

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?