



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leader's Guide – April 25/26 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 25/26 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 4:7-18**
Start the conversation with an 'Icebreaker.'
What is one of your biggest dreams? What is one thing you'd like to accomplish or experience or see before you die?

Study Step 1: Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

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 4:7-15**

- Read 2 Cor 4:5-7 to note the context that Paul addresses. What is the contrast here? Why would he state verse 7 using the word “but”. What is the consequence of it?
 - **Light has shone into our heart “but” the body (the jar) is still broken and sinful (7a)**
 - **The power on display is then shown from God not us (7b)**
- List the contrasts Paul mentioned in verses 8-9 (e.g. perplexed but not in despair)

- *Reflection question: Which of these do you most resonate with ?*

- Read verses 10-11. What do you learn about the life and death of Jesus?
 - **We carry in our body Jesus’ death (10a)**
 - **This is so that Jesus’ life also is revealed in our body (10b)**
 - **We are always given over to death for Jesus’ sake so that his life is shown in our body (11)**
- How does Paul’s experience of death benefit the Corinthians?
 - **His suffering benefits them, as his ministry comforts them and grows life in them (12)**
 - **Note Paul’s use of Psalm 115:1 The same Spirit that generated the psalmist’s faith and imbued his speech¹**
- According to verses 14 and 15 what is the hope and purpose of this mortal body carrying the light of Christ?
 - **Christ was risen from the dead and so will our dying mortal body (14a)**
 - **Jesus will present us with Paul and Corinthians to himself (14b)**
 - **The benefit is that people are reached and give thanks to God (15a)**
 - **That in return brings Glory to God (15b)**

- **Take a look at 2 Cor 4:16-18**

- How should we react to this truth that we will rise and that our suffering is bringing people to God and glorify him? What further comfort do we have as we slowly die on the outside?
 - **We do not lose heart ! (16a)**
- What else does Paul encourage the Corinthians with?
 - **Even though we suffer outwardly, we are being renewed day by day (16b)**
 - **There is an eternal glory that awaits us as we persevere/ as God keeps us (17)**
- What should we do in light of this and why?
 - **‘Look to eternity’ (18a)**
 - **There is more to this life than what we can see (18b).**

- *Reflection question: What are the things in this Passage that Paul lists that cannot be seen and yet are supposed to fuel us and give us hope? List as many as you can! (e.g his light has shone in our hearts)*

- Take these observations into the next step below

¹Paul quotes Psalm 115:1 (The psalmist was also beset by travail and trusted in God, who delivered him). He repeats the psalm in the second half of the verse but changes it into the present tense and the first person plural, for emphasis: “We also believe, wherefore we also speak.” He compares his own situation in which his faith inspires his bold speech despite his suffering at the hands of the unrighteous to that of the psalmist. Both are righteous sufferers whose manifold afflictions will not silence them. The content of Paul’s faith, however, is different from the psalmist’s because it is founded on the good news of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

David E. Garland, 2 Corinthians, Bd. 29, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 235.

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:**
 - *Ministry of weakness: Read **Exodus 5:22 - 6:8**. Before this text, God asked Moses to return to Egypt to deliver the people of Israel from slavery. Moses finally obeyed and announced God's intentions to His people, but things got worse instead of better. As you read, look for God's answer to Moses' questions. Why did God bring trouble on the people according to this text?*
 - *Read **Deuteronomy 8:1-18**. In this passage, Moses is explaining God's purposes to the people of Israel. Why did God cause the nation of Israel to experience the hardship of wandering in the wilderness? (v 1-5) What is the danger of prosperity and 'having it all together' according to this text? (v 10-18)*
 - *Read **Judges 7:1-8**. This passage recounts a story of God sending His people into battle against the Midianites. How many people left Gideon's army in these 8 verses? Why did God want his army to be so greatly reduced in number?*

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 area of weakness? In what sense do you feel like you are a jar of clay/ tupperware container holding the treasure of the gospel?
- "All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people." How is this being played out in your life? Who are the people that get in touch with the grace God has given you?
- Consider this scenario: "A young adult is constantly comparing themselves to others on social media—people who seem more attractive, more socially connected, and who travel to better places. In contrast, they feel depressed and stuck, and begin to wonder whether the gospel is actually making any difference in their life. Their own life no longer feels like something meaningful or worth celebrating." How could you counsel that person with 2 Cor. 4 (e.g verse 18)?
- Spend some time praying to the Lord, thanking him for the example of Jesus and his resurrection. Spend time asking God to reach more and more people with his grace in your life.

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?