



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

**Community Group Leader's Guide – May 2/3 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 May 2/3 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 5:1-10**  
 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 5:1-10**

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 5:1-5**
  - Read verse 1 - What is the metaphor Paul uses here and what are the contrasts he shows?
    - **The metaphor is that of a dwelling place (tent, house/building)**
    - **Tent: built by human hands (implied?), earthly, is destroyed**
    - **House/Building: not built by human hands, from God, in heaven, eternal**
  - *Reflection question: Think back at last weeks imagery of a treasure in jars of clay. How does this connect?*
  - Read verses 2-4. What is the present struggle for Christians with regards to their body?
    - **We groan and feel naked (2)**
    - **We long to be clothed with the heavenly body (2)**
    - **Until we are clothed with the heavenly body we feel naked (3)**
    - **We groan and are burdened so long as we stay in the tent (4)**
  - According to verse 5, whose work is that? What has God done with it?
    - **He made it this way! Giving us a taste of what is to come (5)**
    - **The Spirit works as a guarantee to show us the reality we expect (5)**
- **Take a look at 2 Cor 5:5-10**
  - Twice Paul, shares how we ought to be impacted by the truth of verses 1-5.
    - **Therefore, we are confident (6a, 8a)**
  - What is the constant struggle/warring desires? How do we relate to this tension, (v.7)
    - **Our mortal bodies remind us that we are away from the Lord (6)**
    - **We would rather be delivered from our bodies to be with the Lord (8)**
    - **Therefore, we have to live in faith not sight (7)**
  - What is our aim? What further motivation does Paul present in verse 10?
    - **To please God, whether we're stuck in our body or in heaven with him (9)**
    - **God will hold us accountable to what we do, both the good and the bad (10)**
- *Reflection question: How would the rest of Scripture shed light on verse 10? For example, will God judge even sins you have confessed to him and that he forgives? How does verse 10 resonate with you?*
- Take these observations into the next step below

## 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:**
  - *"We live by faith not by sight"*
    - **Read Hebrews 11:1-16** What is faith? (v 1-2)What do we understand by faith? (v 3)How do the first 3 verses of Hebrews 11 tie in to 2 Cor 5:7?What does faith "accomplish" for the believer? What does it make possible? (v 6)What motivates those with faith? (v 10, v 13-15)Why is God not ashamed to be called their God?Is this lesson challenging or convicting you? What would it look like for you to live by faith and not by sight?

- *"So that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life." The idea of God defeating death and "swallowing up" death through life appears in several places. Read and reflect on the following passages:*
  - **Read Isaiah 25:1–9.** *What is prophesied in this passage? What will happen in the future? What will people say "in that day"?*
  - **Read 1 Corinthians 15:50–58.** *Paul reflects on Isaiah 25:8 and applies it to the future. What does Paul say will happen? When will this transformation take place? In light of this future transformation, how does Paul encourage them to live? How does Paul's teaching here relate to his teaching in 2 Corinthians 5?*

#### **Step 4: Apply To Our Story**

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

- Where in your life do you feel the tension that Paul describes? What part of your earthly body causes you to groan? Why is that?
- Again Paul encourages us toward confidence. How confident do you feel currently in your walk with the Lord? What fuels your confidence? What dampens it?
- Where are you at with the aim to please God? Do you feel frustrated, or excited? What is an area you feel like it is easy to strive to please God? What area challenges you the most?
- Spend some time praying to the Lord, thanking him for the Spirit's guarantee. Lift each other up in prayer, especially in the areas that you feel weak to please the Lord. John Piper once said: "Prayer will only make sense when you realise that life is war?"

# 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?