



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leader's Guide – May 23/24 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 23/24 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 6:14-7:1**
Start the conversation with an 'Icebreaker.'
Share one of the hardest things you've ever endured that you would be willing to endure again.

Study Step 1: Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

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 6:14-16a**
 - Paul switches his argument in order to give the Corinthians a warning. What does he command them to do?
 - **'Do not be yoked together with unbelievers' (6:14)**
 - List all the contrasts Paul mentions in 14b-16?
 - **Righteousness and wickedness**
 - **Light and darkness**
 - **Christ and Belial**
 - **Believer with and unbeliever**
 - **Temple of God and idols**
 - What declaration about the Corinthians (and our) identity does Paul make at the end?
 - **We are the temple of the living God (6:16b)**
- **Take a look at 2 Cor 6:16b-18**

Paul pearl-strings multiple Old Testament promises together. Let's look at them individually! What does each promise/command communicate?

 - Verse 16b: Lev. 26:12; Jer. 32:38; Ezek. 37:27:
 - **God establishes a relationship with his chosen people and wants to dwell with them**
 - Verse 17: Isaiah 52:11; Ezek. 20:34,41:
 - **God's holiness demands his people to be holy/set apart in order for them to live with him**
 - Verse 18: 2 Samuel 7:14; 7:8:
 - **God will be a Father and we will be his children**
- **Take a look at 2 Cor 7:1**

Note Paul addresses the Corinthians as friends, and reminds them of their connection towards these promises. What does he tell them? (In other words, to whom do these OT Texts apply?)

 - **They have these promises (received). These promises are theirs!**
 - What is an appropriate response/desire for God's children relating to this truth (7:1)?
 - **"let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness"**
 - What is the motivation to do so (7:1b)?
 - **out of reverence for God**
- *Reflection question: What is Paul's tone in this passage? How do you hear him communicate this to the Corinthians?*
- 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:**
 - ***Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.*** Commentators have different opinions on how to interpret what it means to be yoked together with unbelievers, so we're going to try to come to some conclusions on our own by looking at a variety of scripture passages.
 - Option #1 - Based on Paul's word choice itself. The idea of being "unequally yoked" appears only twice in the Bible. It is used as a verb in 2 Cor 6:14, and as an adverb in Leviticus 19:19. Read Leviticus 19:19. The phrase "unequally yoked" appears in the Hebrew & Greek (original languages) in this verse, but in English it is translated as "mate, breed or crossbreed". With that in mind, what is "unequally yoked" in the first pairing of this verse? Now read Deuteronomy 7:3, Ezra 9:12 and Nehemiah 13:25. The word "unequally yoked" does not come up here, but another issue does. What is it? Some commentators think that Paul could be using the literal language of being unequally yoked in Leviticus 19:19 to refer to ways that people can be metaphorically yoked (in Deut 7:3, Ez 9:12, Neh 13:25), and bringing these ideas into his argument in 2 Corinthians 6:14. If this is the case, what is "Option #1" when it comes to understanding what it means to not be yoked together with unbelievers?
 - Option #2 - Based on the scripture passages Paul draws on as he explains this command. In 6:15-16b Paul asks questions to explain what he means, and then from 6:16c-6:18 he quotes scripture to explain what he means. 2 Corinthians 6:16 quotes Leviticus 26:12, Isaiah 52:11 and Ezekiel 20:34,41. Read Leviticus 26:1-12. What command begins this section of text (26:1)? How does the command in Leviticus 26:1 relate to the verse that Paul quotes (Leviticus 26:12)? 2 Corinthians 6:17 quotes Isaiah 52:11 and Ezekiel 20:34,41. Isaiah 52:1-12 is filled with hope. God promises that His people who have been enslaved will be set free so that "all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of their God" (52:10). As they leave the land that has enslaved them, they are to bring certain things with them. What is the command in Isaiah 52:11? What are the "articles of the LORD's house" (NIV) / "vessels of the Lord" (ESV) used for? Read Ezekiel 20:30-44. What is the issue at stake in this text? Why were the people punished by God? (Ezekiel 20: 30-34) How and why does their situation change? (Ezekiel 20:39-44)

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- Have you ever seen negative consequences, struggles or difficult implications of people tying themselves to unbelievers (through intimate friendship, marriage or work). What are some natural challenges?
- Paul reminds the Corinthians of the promises of God made to them. Spend some time to share specific promises of the OT or NT and
- Where in your life have you felt the temptation to compromise? How has this been resolved?
- Respond to God in prayer, asking the Spirit to help you live out what Paul commands in this text!

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?