



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Guide – May 9/10 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.
- **Share a takeaway from the May 9/10 sermon.** "Is there something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?"
- **Facilitate a brief study of 2 Cor 5:11-21**

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 5:11-21

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 5:11-15**
 - Read verse 10 again - Paul knows the fear of God, but unbelievers do not. What do we do as a response? What exactly is plain to God in this context (look ahead to v.12)

- *Reflection question: John Bunyan once said: No faith, no fear of God. A devil's faith, a devil's fear (of God); saints' faith, saints' fear (of God). What makes the difference you think?*
 - Read verses 12-13. What is Paul after here? Some critics (e.g Acts 26:24) claimed Paul's zeal made him unstable. Paul's giving the Corinthians a way to defend their allegiance to Paul:

 - Read verses 14-15: What compels him and why?

- **Take a look at 2 Cor 5:16-21**
 - The Greeks would look at charisma, reputation and skill for "regard". Paul would have seen Christ's preaching and death as a failure from a "worldly view". But what does verse 17 communicate?

 - What relationships are being reconciled through God?

 - What ministry do we inherit as a result?

 - What is the message that brings reconciliation?

- *Reflection question: How does Paul live this work of an ambassador out in the context of 2 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:**
- **For further study on your own:**
 - *"The message of reconciliation"*
 - **Read Romans 3:9-23** *What words are used to describe people living without God in 3:10-18? What is true about everyone according to 3:19? What is true about everyone according to 3:23?*
 - **Read Ephesians 2:1-3** *What words are used to describe people living without God in these verses? Reflect on Paul's use of the word "dead" here. Why does he use this word, do you think? (hint: can dead people DO anything to cause a change in their circumstances?)*
 - **Read Ephesians 2:4-10** *What did God do for those who were dead? Why did he do all these things? If you want to stop right now and praise God for saving you from yourself, OR pray for God to save you from yourself please do so. When you're ready, keep on going...*
 - **Read Ephesians 1:3-10.** *When was God's plan of salvation conceived? When did he come up with this idea? What are the benefits of being chosen by God and brought into His family? List everything you see in this text. What is God's will according to verse 10?*
 - *"We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God"*
 - *David Garland notes, "Paul tells them to be reconciled to God because they have fallen short because of their bickering, sinful lifestyles, and participation with idols, all of which necessitate his frank reproof." Paul's solution to this problem is found earlier in this passage. He explains that Christ "died for all, that those who live may no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Cor 5:15). We demonstrate that we ARE reconciled to God, and that we have NOT received God's grace in vain (2 Cor 6:1) as we begin living more and more for Jesus rather than for ourselves.*

■ **Read Galatians 5:13-26.**

What is an improper use of our freedom in Christ? What is a proper use of our freedom in Christ? What does it look like to gratify the desires of the flesh? What does it look like to walk by the fruit of the Spirit? Is God convicting you by His Spirit as you reflect on these verses? Is sin preventing you from being reconciled to God? How or in what area do you need the Spirit's help, right now, to live for Jesus?

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

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

- How did you first encounter the message of reconciliation? What was compelling about it? Which part moved you most to surrender?

- Who is the person you desire most to be reconciled to God? Spend some time in prayer for this individual, that God would enlighten the eyes of their heart!

- Where are you most tempted to regard things from a worldly point of view? In light of the new creation, how can you grow to view it differently?

- Spend some time praying to the Lord, thanking him for the new life He has given 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.

- Pray for those far from God that you personally know, by name.
- Is there something that seems especially relevant for us to do personally based on our discussion?
- Is there something we as a group should plan to do together based on our discussion?
- 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?