



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leader's 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. 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 9/10 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 5:11-21**
Start the conversation with an 'Icebreaker.'

If you could instantly repair one broken relationship in the world, what would it be?"

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)
 - **We try to persuade others**
 - **The motives are transparent**
 - *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:
 - **The Corinthians ought to discern the motif of Paul's ministry and heart (13a)**
 - **If he seems extreme, it is devotion to God. If he seems rational, it is for their benefit. (13b)**
 - Read verses 14-15: What compels him and why?
 - **Christ's love is the source! Conviction that his death leads to life (14)**
 - **His ministry to Corinth is still their growth towards Christlikeness: death to themselves and life to Christ (15)**
- **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?
 - **The outside does not matter anymore, but the new Creation that has come. The creation of life in the Spirit**
 - What relationships are being reconciled through God
 - **He reconciled us to Himself through Christ (18)**
 - **God reconciled the world to himself by not counting sin against them (19)¹**
 - What ministry do we inherit as a result?
 - **We are entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation (18)**
 - **We are given the message of reconciliation (19,)**
 - **We are ambassadors of Christ (20)**
 - **We appeal to others (20a)**
 - What is the message that brings reconciliation?
 - **Christ who knew no sin became sin in exchange for his righteousness (21)**
 - **Therefore Be reconciled to God (20b)**
- *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

¹This is similar to Christ saying "I will draw all people to me", rather than everyone being saved it means all kinds of people (free, slaves, old, young, are saved). So in 2 Corinthians people who once belonged to the world but trusted in Christ have had their sins forgiven.

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:**
 - *"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.

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?