

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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## **PRAY TOGETHER**

Please begin today by asking each group member to pray aloud together for Northview, the Johnson family, and the global Church. Pray for us all to have postures of humility, love, and grace as we pursue healing and unity in processing, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## **ICE BREAKER**

The news this week has left many of us feeling and wrestling with all kinds of emotions. No matter how you are feeling or have felt, it's ok, God sees you, loves you, and understands. What's one primary emotion you've felt that you'd be willing to share with the group, and what seems to be underneath that feeling for you?

## **SERMON OVERVIEW**

In seasons of unexpected transition and difficulty, we're reminded of a foundational truth that anchors our faith: God's sovereignty. This weekend's message from Pastor Mark Crull invites us to wrestle with the reality that God possesses absolute authority, supreme power, and complete control over all of His creation...while we may be surprised by sudden and painful changes, God is never caught off guard. He either ordains circumstances or allows them. We are called in every circumstance to seek Him and trust Him. We're challenged to remember who we truly are as the church—not a building, but the living body of Christ, His beloved bride, and the family of God. Through the story of young Samuel, we see how God uses the most unlikely vessels to accomplish His purposes, reminding us that surrendering to God's voice, even when the message is difficult, positions us for divine purpose. The image of two trees sharing the same soil—one dead, one alive—offers profound hope: God specializes in bringing new life from what appears lifeless. This is our invitation to engage fully in the life of the church, to lean into community in the valleys, and to trust that God is writing a new chapter in our story—one marked by His faithfulness, His love for His bride, and His gracious, transforming power.

## **READ SCRIPTURE**

**PSALM 34:18, 1 SAMUEL 3, JOHN 17**

## **CONNECT RELATIONALLY**

- 1) How does the doctrine of God's sovereignty provide comfort or challenge you when facing unexpected changes or difficulties in your life or church community? In what ways can we trust God's sovereignty while also wrestling with hurt, confusion, and unanswered questions during difficult seasons?
- 2) How do you feel about a God who is both close to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18) and yet sometimes speaks hard, painful truths as He did to Eli through Samuel? What emotions does that tension stir up in you?
- 3) How does Samuel's posture as a listening servant affect how you feel about your own identity and calling within this church during a season of transition?

**GROW  
SPIRITUALLY**

4) How can we balance the need for transparency and accountability in church leadership while also protecting the dignity of all individuals involved in difficult situations?

5) How do you understand the relationship between God's sovereignty (He is in complete control) and our responsibility to listen and obey, as seen both in 1 Samuel 3 and in this season of our church's life?

6) In what ways does Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17 challenge how we respond to division, hurt, or disagreement within the body of Christ?

**LIVE  
GENEROUSLY**

7) How can the church function as both a family and a hospital for the sick and hurting, and what role do you play in creating that environment?

8) In light of the call to respond to this season with prayer and fasting, what specific rhythms (for your church, its leaders, and the wider body of Christ) could you commit to this week, and how will you practice trusting that God hears and answers those prayers?

9) Jesus' prayer for His followers is that they would be "one heart and mind" so that the world would believe the Father sent him. In this season of transition and hurt, what is one practical way you can pursue unity (in speech, attitude, or relationships) within your church family so that your community reflects this oneness?

**TAKE  
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please complete this statement, I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

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Please invite each group member to share their next step, if they have one.

**PRAY  
TOGETHER**

Take a few minutes for each person to share a recent joy or praise, as well as something that's weighing on their heart. Then invite someone to pray over these requests. Be sure to pass them along to everyone in the group so you can keep praying for one another between meetings.

**ENGAGE  
TOGETHER**



**Convoy of Hope - Hygiene Pack Event** - When families are displaced by natural disasters, even the simplest supplies can make a big difference. That's why Northview is partnering with Convoy of Hope to pack hygiene kits for people in need worldwide. On June 28, at every Northview Campus, we'll help deliver practical care, share the love of Jesus, and remind families they're not alone. Find a serving opportunity with your group and join us in making a difference.