



Good Friday Gathering - EXPERIENCE GUIDE

How to Use This Guide

- This this guide as a script to follow OR Allow the NPC Video to direct your evening.
- There are three ways for you to lead your Good Friday Gathering.
 - **#1 Self-Led**
 - OPTION 1 - You can decide how you want the night to go.
 - OPTION 2 - You can follow the script we have provided for you. And involve your guests in the reading of the scriptures.
 - **#2 Video Led (With Communion)**
 - This video includes The Upper Room Discourse AND a COMMUNION moment by Pastor Steve.
 - YouTube Video - Streaming on YOUTUBE channel of our SmartTV or Apple TV.
 - Search: northpointeFL or North Pointe Church, Lutz, in the YouTube Search bar.
 - **#3 Video Led (Without Communion.)**
 - This video ONLY includes The Upper Room Discourse AND NOT COMMUNION
 - Why use this: If you many non-believing guests consider not leading in communion as God's Word expresses Communion is for Believers.
 - YouTube Video - Streaming on YOUTUBE channel of our SmartTV or Apple TV.
 - Search: northpointeFL or North Pointe Church, Lutz, in the YouTube Search bar.

NOTE on Using NPC Videos:

- During the video Pastor Steve will instruct you when to PAUSE and/or PRAY along the way!
- Keep your APPLE TV/SMART TV Remote Handy!
- Pause the video between sections so you can facilitate discussion. After your discussion, resume the video to move to the next

NOTE on SELF-LED Version:

- If using self guided, just follow along with the guide. You can say the words in italics or you can say whatever you feel is appropriate for that section of the night.

NOTE on COMMUNION:

- If using the videos, first decide if you want to take communion as part of your gathering or not, then select the appropriate video.
- We recommend skipping communion if you have people joining you who are not believers as scripture recommends communion only be taken by those who are followers of Christ.

Helpful Tips

- Be sure to read through the entire order of service before beginning.
- You may want to choose different guests ahead of time to read the different verses of scripture. Be sure to let them know which verses to have prepared before beginning.
- If reading the scripture yourself, you may want to prepare in advance by marking out the scriptures ahead of time in your own bible.
- There is a moment at the end that invites anyone to share their testimony. You may want to prepare to share your own testimony ahead of time or pick out someone in your group who would be willing to share theirs in case no one else volunteers.

Good Friday Gathering Guide - Order of Service

1. Intro

- Greet your guests and welcome them to the night.
 - *"Thanks for coming and joining us to celebrate Good Friday. This is the Friday before Easter. It represents the day that Jesus was crucified and died on the cross. Tonight, we will be remembering Jesus death. Considering what this day represents, you might think it's strange that we call this "good" Friday. Maybe it will become clearer as we go through this evening"*
- Opener Questions
 - How did your family celebrate Easter when you were growing up?
 - Why do you think Christians call Good Friday "good", when such a bad thing happened?

2. The Upper Room

- Set-up the story
 - *Just under a week ago, Jesus and his 12 disciples entered into the city of Jerusalem. The past couple of days have been pretty crazy for Jesus and his followers. It all started with a triumphal entry where Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey while everyone else praised him, just like a king. This is in stark contrast to what Jesus had told his disciples was going to happen. He told them that he would be betrayed, turned over into the hands of evil men, and then crucified. While in Jerusalem, the night for Jesus to be betrayed arrived, so Jesus gathers his twelve disciples together for one last meal. This is a really important moment, because Jesus knows that this will be the last time he will see some of his closest friends before he will be crucified. He wants his followers to remember him and the sacrifice he is about to make.*
- Let's read about this in (Read - Luke 22:14-23)
- Ask Group
 - *Put yourself in the shoes of the disciples. Your teacher has just told you he is going to suffer and die, but before he goes he wants to have this special meal with you. He talks about his blood being like the wine and his body being like the bread and that this is a sacrifice for you. How do you think the disciples felt in that moment?*
- Pray
 - *Father, we come to you in this moment trying to understand the weight of the last supper. The last time that your son was with all of his followers before his crucifixion, and we look forward to the day when we will sit at the table with Jesus surrounded by all of his followers and have this meal again in the life here after. Amen.*

3. Communion

- Note Keep in mind if you have unchurched friends joining you, you may want to skip this part and move on to Section 4 - Garden. The Bible says communion is for believers, so don't make your guests feel uncomfortable or put them in an awkward position.
- Prepare our hearts for communion
 - *We are going to take the Lord's Supper together, just like the disciples did with Jesus in the upper room. As we take communion, I want you to imagine that Jesus is the one handing you the cup and the bread, just like you were in that upper room so long ago.*
- Bless the BREAD/BODY
 - *On the night that Jesus was to be betrayed, he gathered his followers and shared a final meal with them. This meal wasn't just a passover feast, but was done so that his followers would remember his sacrifice for them. Taking the bread, he said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*
- Pray over BREAD/BODY
 - *Jesus, we thank you for your sacrifice of your body, which was broken to make us whole. You bore the weight of our sin on your body. You were wounded for our transgressions. As we take of your body today, we remember your sacrifice for us.*
- Hold the Cup
 - *Taking the cup, Jesus said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. Take and drink and do this in remembrance of me."*

- Pray over the Cup
 - *Jesus, we thank you for your blood which was shed for us. Our sins weighed upon us, but your blood washes us as white as snow. This cup represents the new covenant you have made with your followers and we take it and drink from it. We do this to remember your great sacrifice for us.*
- Take and drink the Cup
- Moment of Silent Reflection
 - *Let's take a moment to silently reflect upon Christ's sacrifice for us. While we have this moment, think about how the disciples felt after doing this for the first time with Jesus*

4. The Garden of Gethsemane (Read Matthew 26:36-56)

- Ask These Questions
 - *Now that the disciples have fled from Jesus, what do you think they were thinking at this point? What was going on in their heads?*
 - *What do you think Jesus was thinking?*
 - *Jesus went without a fight and put up no resistance. How do you think the shoulders felt arresting a willing prisoner?*

5. The Cross (Read Luke 23:26-49)

- Our Response to what He has done!
 - *Take a moment to thank God for what he has done for you through the sacrifice of Jesus. Because of his atoning death for us, we are forgiven of our sins and can have a personal relationship with God.*

6. Closing Song - What He's Done

- *We're going to thank the Lord through song. As the song plays, take this moment to continue to think about how Jesus sacrifice for us and what he has done.*
- NOTE: This song is a part of the VIDEO PACKAGE.
 - You can find this song "What He's Done (feat. Tasha Cobbs)" - By Kristian Stanfill)
 - Note This song is available on most major music streaming platforms.

7. Testimony of what Christ has done in your life.

- *Christ has done so much for us that we can never repay. I'd like to invite anyone right now to share a brief testimony about what Jesus has done for you personally.*

8. Closing Moments (No Video)

- Invite your guests to Celebrate Easter at North Pointe Church
- *Christ has been crucified, died, and placed in a tomb. For the disciples it seemed that the story was over, but we know that this isn't the end. In three days Christ would rise from the grave, which is what we celebrate on Easter Sunday. I'd like to extend an invitation to continue this story with me at my church's Easter service. This year we have four services:*
 - *Saturday 6:30pm, Sunday 830, 10 & 1135am*
- *If you'd like to attend those, I'd be more than happy to sit with you during service. Just let me know.*
- Pass out invite cards
- Note Please consider urging your guests to attend a service other than the 10AM service if possible

9. Close in Prayer

- *Father, thank you for the sacrifice of your son. It is because of Jesus death on the cross that our sins are forgiven. We can never know truly what that sacrifice meant, but we do know that it shows your great love for us. We can never show our thanks enough for the blood that was shed. As we go now, may that sacrifice remain on our minds as we eagerly prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's glorious resurrection. In his name, Amen.*