

LESSON

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

What You Need to //BE// as You Gather

- Be present to Jesus and others—community is Jesus’ dwelling place.

What You Need to //KNOW// as You Gather

- Preparation: Come with a picture, a passage, and a prayer.
- Intimacy and Impact: Cultivate intimacy that leads to impact.
- Flexibility: Respond to what you DO have, not what you DON’T have.
- Focus: Let one “DO” lead and the other two follow.

What You Need to //DO// When You Gather

- Family: We practice **community** by listening to each other’s stories.
- Image-Bearers: We practice **formation** by listening to God’s story in the word and prayer.
- Witness: We practice **witness** by being equipped to share and show the gospel.



MID-WEEK GATHERINGS

Introduction

When we gather in the power of the gospel, God dwells with us. Our gatherings are communal containers for his presence (Ephesians 2:19-22). Because his presence is with us, heaven can invade earth. It comes to us and through us. In his presence, we remember who we are: family of image-bearing ambassadors.

As we pray and listen to the Spirit, we taste the age to come now. Jesus' redemption frees us; his reconciliation draws us to him and others; his restoration makes us whole. Our gatherings invite gospel power, cultivate gospel power, and transmit gospel power. People's lives can be changed when we gather in God's presence.

Three key practices cultivate gospel fruitfulness: story, listening, and equipping for witness.

Stories

Every time we gather, we create space for gospel life when we tell our story and listen to others' stories. Ways we can facilitate authentic story-telling include:

- Storyline: Invite updates to unfolding stories.
- Opposites: Joy and sorrow, blessing and loss, strength and weakness, faith and doubt.
- Meaning: Connect relationships and circumstances to gospel meaning.
- Listening: Discover what Jesus has said to others and you through the Word and Spirit.

Word & Prayer

When we gather, we may not do a formal Bible study all the time. However, God's word must be prominent. More than anything, his Word helps us re-narrate our stories in the gospel story.

- See "Curriculum" schedule.

Prayer is the second way we re-narrate our story. Not only can we listen to God's voice as we pray, we can share our heart and listen to others. In prayer, Jesus reveals himself; in prayer, he answers with supernatural works. In prayer, he draws us into his gospel. Here are practical ways to incorporate prayer in a Life Group meeting.

- Pray through a Psalm or other passage of scripture.
- Pray through personal, family, and circumstantial needs of members.
- In small groups, have people share prayer needs and then pray for one another.
- Pray for personal needs, sick, spiritual bondage, practical needs, healing, etc.
- As appropriate, lay hands on others and listen for words from the Lord.
- Ask specific members to pray for specific needs.
- Have everyone stand in a circle and pray for someone to the right or left.

Equip for Share & Show

Every believer is called to make disciples. In the Garden of Eden, we were called to multiply. Jesus instructed and authorized us to go into all the world to make disciples. The best way to foster personal formation and community is to taste the work of disciple-making.

There are three simple ways we can equip believers for gospel impact: prayer, story, and relationship. There are four resources you can use in and through your Life Group meetings.

- Praying for the Lost
- Tell Your Story
- Tic-Tac-Toe
- Learning to Listen

Closing Question

Based on what you shared, what do you sense Jesus would have you do this week?

FRIDAY/SATURDAY GATHERINGS

- Resource: Sabbath Family Liturgy Guide
- Resource: Havdalah Family Liturgy Guide