**Greenhouse 1st Gathering**

**Planning Aid for Facilitators**

We have tried to create this programme to be as flexible as possible to allow you to shape it to fit your Greenhouse/ context but with enough of a framework so that you do not have to start from scratch! You will need to decide whether your gathering will be online or onsite. There are pros and cons of each approach, which will depend on your context. For general ideas on pros and cons to help with your thinking see additional resources section for gathering one. The first programme below is designed for an online event, with the second designed for an onsite in person event - choose whichever is appropriate to you.

As you begin to plan it is important for you to remember that the Greenhouse is the whole community of all the members of the teams, which happens to gather together 2-3 times a year. So, the gathering needs to serve the relationship-building needs of the community and enable great conversations among team members that lead to wiser actions.

We think about the journey of each gathering as having 5 ‘Es’:

* Entice
* Enter
* Engage
* Exit
* Extend

Each of these stages is important for motivating and inspiring people through each gathering of the Greenhouse Community.

In your planning, remember what you’ve learned about the Ethos of Greenhouse – if you need a reminder, rewatch the relevant video in the facilitation training.

**ENTICE**

This begins before the event – it will probably take the form of a pre-gathering email giving practical details and asking the questions below. It could also include social media posts, brief video content of you saying how excited you are to be welcoming them all soon (handheld recording with your smartphone is fine). For online gatherings, If you decide to use the worship idea given towards the end of this document, invite each team to bring a candle (& means of lighting it) to the gathering.

Ask your teams to come to the gathering having thought through the following questions (they will get a couple of minutes to introduce their team and share their answers):

1. Which group of people are you wanting to love and serve? *‘Where is your vegetable patch?’*
2. What have you started to do already? ‘*What is growing?’*
3. Where on the Missional Journey are you?

**For an online event**

| Timing | Activity |  | Facilitator Notes | | Who is facilitating | Who is overseeing tech | | Objective |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Pre-event* | ***Sort out Zoom/technology*** |  | *Make sure all facilitators are co-hosts, have whoever is overseeing the breakout rooms as host, ensure screen sharing is set as needed, finalise who will be letting people in from waiting room*  *Set up your Greenhouse Resource table/ virtual table* | |  |  | | *To ensure smooth running of Zoom* |
| 18:45 | **Setting those attending at ease- informal welcome time** |  | How will you do this in practice?  Let people know you will be starting promptly at 19.00 | |  |  | | *ENTER*  *Setting at ease*  *(welcome and tech)* |
| 19.00 | **Introduction to gathering** |  | Enthusiastic welcome & thank people for their time  Introduce your facilitation team.  Setting ground rules- in collaboration with the teams there- being present and attentive, being open to others, being honest, respecting confidentiality. | |  |  | | *Put people at ease, make them feel safe & welcome*  *Embedding ground rules linked to ethos.*  *Set the scene.* |
| 19.15 | **Worship** |  | Scroll down this document for a breakdown of this session which is adapted from the Godsend book. After leading teams through this time of worship you may like to suggest that this is a simple approach to worship and prayer which they could use together as a team when they gather (& tell them they can find other examples on p. 47-50 of the Godsend book). | |  |  | | *Importance of starting and focusing on God whilst also modelling ways teams may do this in their own contexts* |
| 19:30 | **Godsend Input** |  | There are 18 topics on the Godsend website, each of which correlate with a chapter in the Godsend book, leading people through the Missional Journey (MJ). We recommend that you choose one topic/chapter to introduce to your Greenhouse at each gathering.  Our suggestion for Gathering 1 is either [What is it about](https://godsend.cloud/content/first-steps/what-is-it-about/) or [Form a Team](https://godsend.cloud/content/first-steps/form-team/) (or choose whichever of the early topics seem most relevant to your Greenhouse).  Once you have chosen your topic/chapter, it would be great if the facilitators read the relevant book chapter & watch the correlating 90 second animation video and a couple of the stories on the web page.  Having done that, decide how you would like to introduce that topic in the time available in a way which builds people’s confidence and helps them understand this is ‘just in time’ learning, meaning that they as teams can dip into whichever bit is most relevant to them whenever they want. For instance you may choose to show the 90 second animation and one of the stories and/or write a few questions inspired by your reading of the relevant chapter of the book.  As it’s the first session, help them understand they are invited to use Godsend as they journey around the MJ | |  |  | | *Introduce the teams to using Godsend, helping familiarise them with it and seeing its relevance & usefulness so that they’re encouraged to dip into it themselves.* |
| 19:40 | ***‘What Is’:* Preparation in teams** |  | ‘What is?’ task- where is your vegetable patch based on their pre-work, give them time in teams (in breakout rooms) to finish preparing what they want to say as their report out answering the 3 questions (remind them how much time they will have):  1) Where is our vegetable patch? - which group of people are we wanting to love and serve?  2) What is growing? -what have we started to do?  3) Where on the Missional Journey are you?    Invite each team to name where they are on the cycle- *remember to save this information for enablers reporting (see post gathering information below)* | |  |  | | *ENGAGE*  *Chance for team to touch base and finalise what to say in report out- see pre-work* |
| 19:55 | **‘*What is*’: Report out** |  | Time given depends on how many teams.  2-3 mins per team to report out on the first two pre-work questions and to introduce their team members.  One of the facilitation team could complete and show the MJ template slide showing where each team is on the journey, after everyone has reported out. | |  |  | | *To hear where each team is and give each team a chance to speak into whole group.*  *Someone will need to record where people are on the MJ for the Greenhouse reporting*  *To see the spread of where people are on the missional journey.* |
| 20.15 | **Comfort break** |  |  | |  |  | |  |
| 20.20 | ***‘What Could be?’***  **Visualisation Exercise** |  | Facilitator to lead imaginative meditation based on script provided below (scroll down document to find) - 5 mins.  Then discussion as a team in breakout rooms – 20 mins  Encourage teams to note down their dreams.  *Optional- they could share this in the chat/on Facebook group for all teams to see when they return to the main room.* | |  |  | | *For the teams to dream about their initiative/project/idea and to let God expand their possibilities*  *To allow teams to make a note of their dream.* |
| 20:45 | ***‘What will be’ - in teams*** |  | Time in groups (in breakout rooms) to explore, from all that you’ve discussed and reflected on:  What next steps do you plan to take?  Who is doing what?  When will you do it?  Encourage teams to get their diaries out and make this really practical.  Remind them they will also need time together to explore the Godsend topic/chapter relevant to where they are on the MJ  The teams will also need to prepare to share their plans with the other teams.  *Slide template available* | |  |  | | *For teams to come up with their next steps - very practical balance between big picture & small baby steps needed to get there.* |
| 21:05 | ***‘What Will Be*’ Report out** |  | 2-3 mins per team report out on their next steps  Invite other teams to write a prayer for the team in the chat after each report out.  *Note: If you have a shorter length of gathering you could get one person to type in the chat box what their next step is and when the team is meeting to take it further.* | |  |  | | *For all the teams to hear each other’s vision and next steps, to build accountability & commitment to doing the actions planned, and for each team to be prayed for.* |
| 21.25 | **Closing reflections and prayer** |  | You could use the Greenhouse Prayer to close (scroll to end of document)  Thank them for their time and their hard work - encourage them in what they’ve done this evening and bless them on their way with energy and enthusiasm!  If you are using Facebook or Whatsapp, explain how social media will work, remind dates for next sessions etc  You may like to do a simple evaluation exercise as they leave where you invite people to answer two questions ‘what worked really well?’ and ‘what would have made it better?’ - they could either answer these on 2 sides of a piece of paper or have post its with two flipcharts as they leave - one for each question. | |  |  | | *EXIT*  *For each team to leave encouraged, envisioned & ready for action* |
| 21:30 | **Close** |  |  | |  |  | |  |

**EXTEND**

Scroll down to below onsite programme for actions needed after the gathering.

**For an onsite event**

| Timing | Activity |  | Facilitator Notes | | Who is facilitating | Who is overseeing tech | | Objective |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Pre-event* | ***Sort out meeting space*** |  | Make sure all facilitators are ready to go, that the layout of the room works for your planned activities (i.e space for your teams to work together), that technology you will use works (text videos etc).  Set up your Greenhouse Resource table | |  |  | | *To ensure smooth running of event* |
| 18:45 | **Setting those attending at ease- informal welcome time** |  | How will you do this in practice?  Let people know you will be starting promptly at 19.00 | |  |  | | *ENTER*  *Setting at ease* |
| 19.00 | **Introduction to gathering** |  | Enthusiastic welcome & thank people for their time  Introduce your facilitation team.  Setting ground rules- in collaboration with the teams there- being present and attentive, being open to others, being honest, respecting confidentiality. | |  |  | | *Put people at ease, make them feel safe & welcome*  *Embedding ground rules linked to ethos.*  *Set the scene.* |
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| 21:05 | ***‘What Will Be*’ Report out** |  | 2-3 mins per team report out on their next steps  Invite other teams to write a prayer for the team on a post it after each report out. | |  |  | | *For all the teams to hear each other’s vision and next steps, to build accountability & commitment to doing the actions planned, and for each team to be prayed for.* |
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| 21:30 | **Close** |  |  | |  |  | |  |

**EXTEND**

Post gathering

* Follow up with an email, text or Whatsapp message to everyone, thanking them for coming and encouraging them with their next steps. Remind them to use the Facebook page/What’s App etc, and do point them to another suggested Godsend chapter/topic according to what came up in your session.
* Diarise a date 4-6 weeks after your gathering to get in touch with everyone asking how they are getting on with their plan? Are they having any difficulties? Have they had any good discussions? Have they watched/read through any more Godsend videos? (You could include a very short selfie video, with the same message.) If you are using Facebook or Whatsapp, you could invite them to post in the group what they are learning, where they would like help or share any inspiration they have found from Godsend.
* Remember to action your plan of how you will keep connecting with your teams until the next gathering, supporting them with prayer and encouragement.

**ALSO DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE YOU SURVEY** [**https://forms.office.com/e/Y8uBieAezR**](https://forms.office.com/e/Y8uBieAezR)

**Worship idea for an online gathering:**

**Instructions**

• Ask teams to bring a candle on the night with them.

• Make a slide of Matthew 9: 35-38.

• Using their own words, one of the facilitators leads teams through the following worship. Allow 15 minutes.

• The following is just a suggestion. Feel free to adapt it and use different timings.

**Drawing into God’s presence (3 minutes)**

• Light candles (30 seconds).

• Suggest people silently welcome the presence of Christ, or become conscious of God’s presence. (Allow 45 seconds).

• Encourage people silently to consider, “Where did I see God at work since we last met?” Give some possible examples. Eg an encouragement you experienced, an act of kindness you witnessed, some good news you received, an answered prayer, something that gave you joy, a local or national news item that inspired you. Tell them that they will be invited to share their thoughts afterwards. (Allow 45 seconds).

• Then invite people to share their thoughts with the person next to them if hybrid or in chat if all on separate screens (1 minute).

**Bible study (5 minutes)**

• Facilitator slowly reads Matthew 9: 35-38 - the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few (1 minute).

• Allow people a minute to re-read the passage silently.

• Invite them quietly to identify one word, phrase or image in the story that they are most drawn to (45 seconds).

• As they stay with that word, phrase or image, suggest they silently ask why they are drawn to it (45 seconds).

• Ask them what else it brings to mind (45 seconds).

• Silently, what would they say to God as a result of these reflections (45 seconds)?

**Sharing (7 minutes)**

•Put groups into a breakout room to share their reflections with others if on separate screens or ask to share in their teams if hybrid (5 minutes).

• In a plenary session, ask how people found that experience, get them to share in chat (1 1/2 minutes).

• As the facilitator, bring this sharing to a close with spoken prayer asking God’s blessing on the Gathering (30 seconds).

**Worship idea for an onsite gathering:**

**Instructions**

• Before teams arrive, put a candle on each table.

• Print off copies of Matthew 9: 35-38.

• Using their own words, one of the facilitators leads teams through the following worship. Allow 15 minutes.

• The following is just a suggestion. Feel free to adapt it and use different timings.

**Drawing into God’s presence (3 minutes)**

• Light candles (30 seconds).

• Suggest people silently welcome the presence of Christ, or become conscious of God’s presence. (Allow 45 seconds).

• Encourage people silently to consider, “Where did I see God at work since we last met?” Give some possible examples. Eg an encouragement you experienced, an act of kindness you witnessed, some good news you received, an answered prayer, something that gave you joy, a local or national news item that inspired you. Tell them that they will be invited to share their thoughts afterwards. (Allow 45 seconds).

• Then invite people to share their thoughts with the person next to them (1 minute).

**Bible study (5 minutes)**

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• Allow people a minute to re-read the passage silently.

• Invite them quietly to identify one word, phrase or image in the story that they are most drawn to (45 seconds).

• As they stay with that word, phrase or image, suggest they silently ask why they are drawn to it (45 seconds).

• Ask them what else it brings to mind (45 seconds).

• Silently, what would they say to God as a result of these reflections (45 seconds)?

**Sharing (7 minutes)**

• Invite those who want to share their reflections with others on the table (4 minutes).

• In a plenary session, ask how people found that experience (2 1/2 minutes).

• As the facilitator, bring this sharing to a close with spoken prayer asking God’s blessing on the Gathering (30 seconds).

**Led Meditation for *‘What Could Be?’* section**

**Intro:**  Having explored ‘Where is our vegetable patch’ – who are we wanting to love & serve, and ‘What is growing’ – what have we started doing, we want to move to what could be. This is a chance to dream, to notice what God might be nudging, to see with eyes of faith, to see how he sees our veg patch! Going to use a simple meditation to do that – invite you to put down anything which may distract you and make yourself comfortable (…*invite them to slow, notice breathing, drop their gaze if they like, put them at ease with the exercise, can turn off camera if online – however they feel comfortable; some people may find themselves pushed out of their comfort zone by this exercise - if that’s the case for some, invite them to be curious & give it a go - to see it as an experiment!)*.

**Slowly read with plenty of pauses & longer pauses between each section:** *(write script in language you/your teams will relate to eg)*

Imagine a time in the future – you decide when this will be – maybe 6 months, a year or 5 years from now – you decide. Notice the time of year – is it warm or cold, what are the smells, what do you hear? You’re in your home - what do you see around you?

Imagine, at that point, your Fresh Expression has taken off and is thriving, maybe even beyond your wildest expectations. How does that feel?

And now, in your mind’s eye, imagine Jesus knocking at your door – he tells you he wants you to take him to see what has grown, to learn what has happened, to meet some of the people who have been impacted, to hear the stories. He says he has all day, he’s not in a rush. How does he greet you? What is the expression on his face? How do you respond? What does he say to you?

You pick up your things and set out together to show him and introduce him to people. Picture the walk together – where do you take him? What does he say to you as you walk? What do you say to him? How are you feeling?

As you arrive at a place which represents your Fresh Expression, what do you tell him? Picture the look on his face – what does he ask you? Describe what has happened to him – picture his face as you tell him – what are you most proud of – what are you most surprised about – what are you most delighted by? How does he respond? Is there anything you want to ask him? What does he say?

He asks if you can introduce him to some of the people who have been getting to know him for the first time since your Fresh Expression started – he’d love to listen to them. Who do you introduce him to? What do they tell him? How do you feel as you listen to their conversation? What are the expressions on their faces? How does Jesus respond to them? Is there anyone else you want to introduce him to – notice who you want him to meet?

Jesus thanks the people he’s met and tells them how delighted he is at what they’ve told him. He then asks if the two of you can find a quiet corner to chat. Picture where you take him, where do you sit down? Look into his face – what does it tell you about what you’ve just shown him?

He’s going to head off soon, but first, he asks if there’s anything else you would like to tell him or ask him? Do that now. How does he respond? What else might he say to you?

As he leaves, how does he say goodbye? What are his parting words? You say goodbye to him and set off back towards your home. What goes through your mind as you ponder over all that has just happened? I’ll give you a moment more before we come back together.

**Follow up:** Welcome back! Hope you enjoyed that imagining (could ask for feedback if time) – take a moment to jot down anything you want to remember from that – may want to share in groups/hold onto for yourself as you go forward. Bridge into what you want them to do in their teams…

***Greenhouse Prayer***

God of love, you have called us to sow your good news afresh to each generation, to all people and all cultures.

We are your people; your church and we hear your call.

Help us to begin this journey with humility, knowing that it is you alone who guides our way and lights our path.

May our journey be one bursting with joy and full of the creativity and playfulness of your spirit.

Open our ears to hear your will, our eyes to see what is happening in our communities and our hearts to the lives of our neighbours.

May we be so deeply rooted in your love that we are able to love others as you love us and serve with real joy and grace.

Remind us to drink deep from your word, and in the difficult seasons turn our faces to you and be content to rest in prayer.

Teach us to be humble enough to accept the support and the wisdom of others and open to others who wish to join the journey.

Grow us together as one people, at all times practising peace and justice and nourishing one another.

May all that we are and do bear fruit, where we get things wrong may we learn and find new strength and where things go well help us to give the glory to you.

Inspire us and teach us to live your love with hope and joy, imagination and courage, for the sake of your world and in the name of Jesus,

Amen