**Greenhouse 4th Gathering Journey**

**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 share their answers) and having worked through their relevant Godsend section:

1. Is there anything you’ve tried but didn’t work? *‘What do you need to compost’*
2. What new thing(s) have happened/have you done? *‘What new seeds have you sown?’*
3. What do you want to celebrate?  *‘What fresh shoots or even fruit has there been?’*
4. 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 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*  *(welcome and tech)* |
| 19.00 | **Introduction to gathering** |  | Enthusiastic welcome & thank people for their time  Introduce your facilitation team.  Remind people of any ground rules you had agreed upon eg. 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.* |
| 19.05 | **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* |
| 19:20 | **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 4 is either [Ideas](https://godsend.cloud/content/love/ideas/?doing_wp_cron=1691514377.6912159919738769531250) or [Sustain](https://godsend.cloud/content/first-steps/sustain/) (or choose whichever of the 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. | |  |  | | *Keep encouraging the teams to use Godsend, helping familiarise them with it and seeing its relevance & usefulness so that they’re encouraged to dip into it themselves.* |
| 19.30 | **‘What is’ Report out** |  | Teams report back to the group on their pre-work questions. 2 - 3 minutes per team | |  |  | | *To hear where each team is and give each team a chance to speak into whole group.* |
| 19.55 | **What Could Be- Individual and Team Exercise** |  | Facilitator to lead a reflective time to explore how those attending their initiative experience it from their perspective.  Scroll down this document to find more ideas for this exercise.  Teams have 10 mins individual time & 20 mins team time for this exercise. | |  |  | | *To help teams to think about the people they want to serve through their fresh expression; to imagine how they currently experience it and whether there’s anything they’d like to do differently to help people’s experience to be more in line with their hopes and dreams.* |
| 20:25 | ***What will be*** |  | 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.* |
| 20.45 | **Report out** |  | We have allowed for a longer, more in-depth report out this time, building on the relationships that have grown to date and enabling them to really support each other with their next steps.  Invite each team to report out on What Will Be as below:  2 minutes per team to talk about their what will be  1-2 minutes of questions and comments in chat  1 minute praying for team  You may want to split into smaller breakout groups if you have a large number of teams (this timing is worked out on 5 teams sharing) Also, as teams comment, remind them that they can connect with the other teams over facebook/WhatsApp/ a coffee afterwards if they want to chat further. | |  |  | | *For all the teams to hear each other’s vision and next steps, and for each team to be prayed for & to have the opportunity to build on growing relationships – growing connection and inspiring, challenging & sharpening their ideas for their own contexts.* |
| 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 gathering**

| 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.  Remind people of any ground rules you had agreed upon eg. 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.* |
| 19.05 | **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* |
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| 20:25 | ***What will be*** |  | Time in groups 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.* |
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| 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**

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 gathering: online**

**Instructions**

• Ask teams to bring a bowl of water.

• Make a slide of Mark 8. 27-29.

• Using their own words, one of the facilitators leads teams through the following worship. Allow 15-20 minutes.

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

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

• Suggest people silently welcome the presence of Christ, or become conscious of God’s presence. (Allow 30 seconds).

• Encourage people silently to consider the bowl of water. Suggest they ponder what God does with water. Tell them that they will be invited to share their thoughts afterwards. (Allow 1 minute.)

• Then invite people to share their thoughts with the person next to them if hybrid or in chat if on separate screens (1 1/2 minutes).

**Bible study (10 minutes)**

• Facilitator slowly reads Mark 8. 27-29 - “Who do people say I am?” (1 minute). [Encourages an outsiders’ perspective.]

• Ask people to re-read the passage silently and imagine what the conversation would be like if it happened today (1 minute).

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

• Then ask them to think silently what the story is saying to them. “What does it mean to me? What am I getting out of it?” (1 minute)

• Invite them to share their thoughts with others via chat (2 minutes)

**Reflection (2-7 minutes)**

• In a plenary session, ask how people found that experience, get people to put their thoughts in chat (2 minutes).

• (If time, explain that this is one of the *Godsend* suggestions for how you might introduce people from outside the church to Christ. You could look at some stories Jesus told or stories about him, and discuss it using these questions. Ask if people think this would be a helpful approach for those who are new to Scripture (4 minutes).

**Worship idea for gathering: onsite**

**Instructions**

• Before teams arrive, put a bowl of water on each table.

• Print off copies of Mark 8. 27-29.

• Using their own words, one of the facilitators leads teams through the following worship. Allow 15-20 minutes.

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

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

• Suggest people silently welcome the presence of Christ, or become conscious of God’s presence. (Allow 30 seconds).

• Encourage people silently to consider the bowl of water. Suggest they ponder what God does with water. Tell them that they will be invited to share their thoughts afterwards. (Allow 1 minute.)

• Then invite people to share their thoughts with others on the table (1 1/2 minutes).

**Bible study (10 minutes)**

• Facilitator slowly reads Mark 8. 27-29 - “Who do people say I am?” (1 minute). [Encourages an outsiders’ perspective.]

• Ask people to re-read the passage silently and imagine what the conversation would be like if it happened today (1 minute).

• Invite them to share their thoughts with others on the table (4 minutes).

• Then ask them to think silently what the story is saying to them. “What does it mean to me? What am I getting out of it?” (1 minute)

• Invite them to share their thoughts with others on the table (3 minutes)

**Reflection (2-7 minutes)**

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

• (If time, explain that this is one of the *Godsend* suggestions for how you might introduce people from outside the church to Christ. You could look at some stories Jesus told or stories about him, and discuss it using these questions. Ask if people think this would be a helpful approach for those who are new to Scripture (4 minutes).

***‘What could be’* - Team Reflection ideas for Greenhouse Gathering 4 (10 mins individual + 20 mins team time):**

“Reflective time to explore how those attending their initiative experience it from their perspective”

***Purpose:*** *To help teams to think about the people they want to serve through their fresh expression; to imagine how they currently experience it and whether there’s anything they’d like to do differently to help people’s experience to be more in line with their hopes and dreams.*

Explain that this is a chance for people to spend some time thinking about those who come to their Fresh Expression, to imagine from their perspective how they experience it, and having done that to explore together if there’s anything the team would like to change to make it more in line with their hopes and dreams.

For this task you could give the teams a double-sided\*:

* paper thought cloud (thinking)
* paper speech bubble (saying)
* paper heart (feeling)
* paper hand (doing)

\*if you are online, ask people to draw this out in front of them.

Explain that this is going to be a quiet reflective time for them and you’re going to give them space to jot down their responses as you work through each section, leaving pauses for them to write down their thoughts for each section. Afterwards they’ll have time to discuss what they noticed as a team.

You may want to write a script incorporating pauses for those responses - *taking maximum 10 mins in total* - putting the following into your own words:

If someone came to your Fresh Expression for the first time, I wonder how they would experience it? What might they be thinking… saying… feeling… and doing…? [insert pauses as needed - eg. about 1 minute for each]

Now go back to each of those pieces of paper, turn them over and repeat the exercise, reflecting on whether there’s anything else you would you love them to be thinking, saying, feeling and doing differently as a result of discovering and being part of your Fresh Expression? This is a chance for you to specifically identify the changes in people that you long for God to be bringing about through your Fresh Expression, so on the other side of each of those pieces - jot down is there anything else you’d love them to be thinking… saying… feeling… and doing as a result of being part of your Fresh Expression [insert pauses as needed - eg. about 1 minute for each]

What might you choose to do differently to allow those changes to occur? Spend a few minutes jotting down your thoughts.

That’s the end of your reflection time. I wonder how you found it?

Tell the teams they now have 20 minutes in their teams now to explore together what they noticed and anything they’d like to explore doing differently as a result of that. Reassure them that this may be only the beginning of a bigger discussion if they’ve touched on quite a lot! Encourage them to share their time well so they hear from each person, and encourage them to keep the last 5-10 mins to pray for those who attend already and for those still to come yet, that God will bring these dreams to fruition.

***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