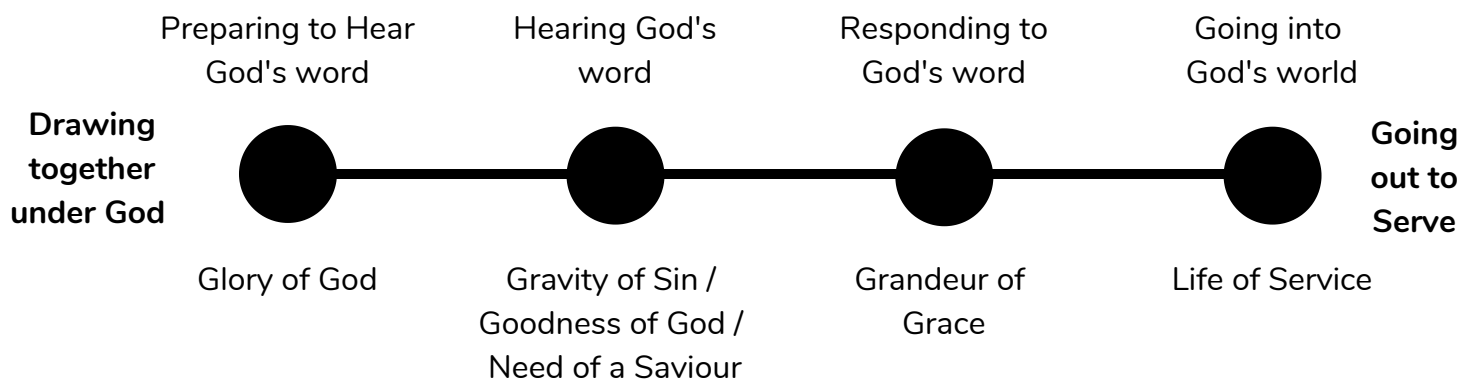


# GOSPEL GATHERINGS

## How-To-Guide

A Gospel Gathering **PREPARES** us to **HEAR** God's Word, **RESPOND** to it, and sends us to **GO** into God's World.



A Gospel Gathering takes us from the **GLORY OF GOD** through the **GRAVITY OF SIN** to the **GRANDEUR OF GRACE** and a **LIFE OF SERVICE**

Rather than just asking 'where does this element go?', the Gospel Gatherings Framework shows how each practice can point us to the glory of God, gravity of sin, grandeur of grace, and help us prepare, hear and respond to the word of God.

When planning a church gathering we must ask of everything we are doing - **is this preparing us to hear God's word, hearing God's word, responding to God's word, or going into his world?**

Everything in the gathering must be done as preparing to hear God's word, hearing God's word, or responding to God's word. It places God's word at the centre, but also ensures proper preparation and response to God's word.

Each gospel practice contributes to the overall symphony. As a gathering leader you are a songwriter and conductor, putting together a gathering with rhythm that leads people through the gospel and interaction with and response to God's word, and then guiding people through that gathering.

- **We prepare to hear God's word** as we **draw together** under **God** and his **Glory**
- **We hear God's word** - being challenged by the **gravity of sin** and **goodness of God**
- **We respond to God's Word** and lead people to the throne of **Grace**
- **We go into God's word** as we live and serve for him

# Foundations

## Which part of the WORD are we hearing?

Passage 1:	<input type="text"/>
Passage 2:	<input type="text"/>
Big Idea:	<input type="text"/>

**Is the preacher clearly and simply explaining the gospel? YES / NO (circle one)**  
*If no, consider where you will include a 30 second clear and simple gospel presentation.*

## How do I want people to respond to God's Word?

*I want people to...*

*One way I can do this is...*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confession + Assurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Creed/Statement of Faith       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call and Response      | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singing                | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet Reflection               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Announcement of upcoming event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lord's Supper          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Creative Response      |

## Which Gospel Practice am I explaining in 30 seconds this week?

*Each week briefly explain one practice that happens in church*

- |  |                                  |                                    |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing | <input type="checkbox"/> Sacrament |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer        | <input type="checkbox"/> Church  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other     |

**Are there any other segments (e.g mission profile) that need to be included? YES/NO**  
*If yes, consider whether it is 'drawing together under God' or 'responding to his word'*

# Prepare

The congregation comes to church with a variety of emotions from the depths of despair to the height of delight. Starting meetings with the **Glory of God** provides a deep understanding of the wonder of God's character and is the **only way** for all of the congregation to interpret the varying emotions they bring to church. **Focusing on God's Glory draws the whole congregation together as one church before God.**

## PREPARING to hear God's Word

**How am I drawing the whole congregation together as one church under God by showing them his GLORY?** (Tick which practices you will include)

☐ Greeting/Introduction

☐ Sacrament

☐ Singing

☐ Prayer

☐ Confession + Assurance

☐ Say Church Aims

☐ Announcement

☐ Creed/Statement of Faith

☐ Interview/Testimony

☐ Bible Verse / Psalm

☐ Kids Spot

☐ Other

*Write your plan for how you will integrate these practices*

☐ **A clear gospel explanation was included** *this box should be ticked ONCE per document*

☐ **A gospel practice was explained in 30 seconds** *this box should be ticked ONCE per document*

**Checkpoint: Have I pointed to God's Glory?**

# Hear

## HEARING God's Word

**How am I going to help people HEAR God's Word?**

(Tick which practices you will include)

- |   |   |                                  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bible Reading</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Kids Spot                | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sermon</b>        | <input type="checkbox"/> Confession + Assurance   | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interview/Testimony  | <input type="checkbox"/> Creed/Statement of Faith | <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |

*The Sermon and Bible Reading are the CORE of this section, but consider whether to include another aspect - especially if a younger gathering struggles with two Bible Readings straight into the Sermon followed by Formal Prayer. If there is an Old Testament reading that is not explained in the sermon, can you respond to that reading - and give it a clearer place in the gathering - by singing in response afterwards? I.e, if it is an Old Testament judgment passage, link it to a song afterwards about God's holiness as righteous judge.*

- ☐ A clear gospel explanation was included
- ☐ A gospel practice was explained in 30 seconds

**Checkpoint: Have I been challenged by the WORD and applied it to myself?**

# Respond

The framework reminds us to conclude on **grace**. Rather than simply stirring people to try harder we are intentionally **leading people each week to the throne of Grace**. If the sermon doesn't land there then the gathering leader should consider how to get there with song/s and prayer. We never want to end with the idea of people having to try really hard to please God.

## RESPONDING to God's Word

How am I creating space to **humbly respond to God's word** and leading people to the **throne of Grace**? (Tick which practices you will include)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call and Response   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sacrament                | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer              | <input type="checkbox"/> Confession + Assurance   | <input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Announcement        | <input type="checkbox"/> Creed/Statement of Faith | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview/Testimony |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Verse / Psalm | <input type="checkbox"/> Group Discussion         | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet Reflection    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other               |   |  |

*Songs can be one form of response, and can be used in combination with another form of reflection. I.e., Sermon > Song that responds and allows people to move around > Prayer, Interview, etc*

- ☐ A clear gospel explanation was included
- ☐ A gospel practice was explained in 30 seconds

**Checkpoint: Have I led people to the throne of Grace? Have I given them time to respond?**

# Go

Having drawn together under God and been reminded of his glory and grace, we now ask, how then shall we live? How are we as individuals and as a congregation **going to serve God**, each other, and the world this week? How are you, as the gathering leader, going to **send people out**?

## GOING into God's World

How am I going to **SEND** people into God's World?  
(Tick which practices you will include)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Re-read key verse   | <input type="checkbox"/> Re-state main point       | <input type="checkbox"/> Singing              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer              | <input type="checkbox"/> Give a challenge/question | <input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Announcement        | <input type="checkbox"/> Creed/Statement of Faith  | <input type="checkbox"/> Blessing/Benediction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interview/Testimony | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                     |   |

*Please note: Sending out is more than saying 'thanks for coming' or 'enjoy morning tea'. You can ask people to stay around for morning tea or dinner, but then follow it with something stronger like a blessing.*

- ☐ A clear gospel explanation was included
- ☐ A gospel practice was explained in 30 seconds

**Checkpoint: Have I sent people to live in a continuing response to God's word?**