**Greenhouse Gathering Journey Template**

**Planning Aid for Facilitators beyond the first 4 gatherings**

This template is designed for Greenhouses who have used the templates provided for Gatherings 1-4 and have therefore completed four Gatherings. First of all, huge congratulations on successfully facilitating four gatherings - whatever has happened along the way that is quite an achievement!

At this point, it is up to you and your teams whether you choose to continue for a fixed amount of time, continue on a rolling basis or bring your Greenhouse to a close. Whichever of these is right for you, ensure you build in enough time to discuss/negotiate that (and build in any changes you’d like to if you are continuing - eg. has the frequency of meeting worked well for you/would you like to change it? Has the length & location worked well for you or would you like to change that?). If you are planning your final gathering with your Greenhouse, we do encourage you to think through how you will celebrate the journey you have been on with your teams, and end the process well.

You will, by now, be familiar with applying the ‘what is’, ‘what could be’, ‘what will be’ outline for each gathering, and have become experts in what works really well in your context. If your Greenhouse plans to continue meeting, our belief is that you now have the experience and, we hope, the confidence to apply all that learning and branch out to develop your own exercises/adapt the timings to work really well in your context. This template therefore simply has the basic outline, and invites you to populate it with exercises, ideas and timings that will best serve your Greenhouse at the point you are at. You may want to look back at Programmes 1-4; are there elements you didn’t use or which you might like to revisit?. Equally, you may want to let your imagination fly - particularly around the ‘what could be’ section - what could best free your teams to dream and grow their initiatives at this point in their journeys?

We hope you have fun building on all you have learned and designing really creative and effective gatherings going forward.

**As you plan, remember the 5 ‘E’s:**

* 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). If you want them to bring anything in particular for the worship section, or anything else, let them know in this email.

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?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Suggested time allocation | Activity |  | Facilitator Notes | Who is facilitating | Who is overseeing tech | Objective |
| *Pre-event* | ***Set up of event*** |  |  |  |  | *To ensure smooth running of your gathering* |
| 15 mins before start | **Setting those attending at ease- informal welcome time** |  | How will you do this in practice?  Let people know you will be starting promptly at xxx |  |  | *ENTER*  *Setting at ease* |
| 10 mins | **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.* |
| 10- 15 mins | **Worship** |  | You could use p. 47-50 of the Godsend book to help you plan this section |  |  | *Importance of starting and focusing on God whilst also modelling ways teams may do this in their own contexts* |
| 10 mins | **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.  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.  Suggestions for Gathering 5  [Community](https://godsend.cloud/content/community/community/) or [Sharing the Good News](https://godsend.cloud/content/share-jesus/sharing-good-news/)  (Many teams may not have yet reached “Sharing Jesus” on the Missional Journey, but you may want to encourage them to start thinking about this quite early on.)  Suggestions for Gathering 6  [Sustain](https://godsend.cloud/content/first-steps/sustain/?doing_wp_cron=1696860539.7500309944152832031250) (If you haven’t already discussed this) or [Church](https://godsend.cloud/content/church/church/)? |  |  | *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.* |
| 15-25 mins | **‘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.*  *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.* |
| 20-30 mins | **What Could Be- Team Exercise** |  | *Pick/create an exercise.*  *Scroll down this document to find a few suggestions.* |  |  | *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.* |
| 5-10 mins | **Optional Report out** |  | 1 minute per team to share |  |  |  |
| 15-30 mins | **Optional Exercise for collaboration/ mixing with other teams** |  | *Pick/create an exercise as in gatherings two and three, or use time in final report out as per gathering four* |  |  |  |
| 15-20 mins | ***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.* |
| 5-20 mins | **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.* |
| 5 mins | **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* |
|  | **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/WhatsApp 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)

***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

**What Could Be ideas.**

**Dreaming Exercises:**

* Invite teams to imagine what their or God’s dream scenario would be for their fresh expression in 18 months’ time. How would they want to be operating? What would God’s dream be for them as individuals, for them as a team, and for those they serve? Ask them to spend time thinking about this individually and then discussing it as a team. What does that tell them about what they might long to do next?
* Give each team a big roll of lining paper and a selection of coloured markers and/or paints. Invite them to imagine they are children again, and to draw, paint, write or doodle what their fresh expression will be like in 5 years. Tell them this is an exercise in letting their imagination go wild and that for now, they can ignore any restrictions around money, permissions or other limitations they might be aware of. They can use colour, images, metaphors or words – whatever helps them playfully imagine, and see what comes. Once they have done that, invite them to review together what is on their paper, and ask themselves what that tells them about their hopes, dreams and possible next steps for the fresh expression.
* Give each team a big pile of post its. Write a few key questions that would work in your context onto pieces of flipchart paper (one question per sheet) for each team e.g. What would it look like for your project to be flourishing? What are your dreams for your fresh expressions? What is the impact we would like our project to have on our community. Invite each team to use the post its, and begin with 5 minutes to quietly jot down things that come to mind in answer to those questions, and stick them to the flipchart. Follow up with some team time for them to share their thoughts.
* Invite teams to bring old magazines/newspapers and provide scissors and glue. With (optional) quiet music playing in the background and an encouragement to enjoy some quiet, give teams 10 mins to leaf through and cut out images and words which speak to them of their hopes and dreams for their fresh expression and stick them onto a central piece of paper. In the remaining time available, invite them to scan what’s been created and see what it tells them about what might be on their heart and God’s heart.
* Invite teams to imagine they’ve been propelled forward into their neighbourhoods (or the place their fresh expression is based) into the year 2045! Ask them to imagine that what they see around them is the very best they could possibly have imagined for that place. Ask them to picture what is different: What does it look and feel like? How are the people around them? What has changed? Once they have pictured that, ask them to work their way back and ask themselves what happened every 5 years or so to bring those changes about? What part did their fresh expression have in those changes? What actions did they precipitate to allow those changes to happen? Follow with some time for teams to reflect on what that exercise might tell them about what is on God’s heart for what they might do next. For a wonderful exploration of the power of hopeful imagination, see Rob Hopkins’ book: ‘From What is to what if’
* Paper Clip Method To help people think creatively and to catalyse getting new solutions. Materials: A big paperclip, flip-chart, paper and pens for participants. As a team look at a large paperclip. Each of you individually is write down within 5 minutes ( or 3 or 2) as many uses as possible for a paperclip. After this determine as a group which person has the most uses on their paper. Now write down the number of possible uses the person with the longest list has mentioned. After that ask the first person of the group to mention their first use. Ask the rest of the group to delete the item ( if they have the same ) on their paper. Ask the second, and so on. Beware, everybody has to mention one item at the time, One member of your group writes down every possible use mentioned, without discussion. When all possible uses are mentioned the facilitator counts all the items which are written down on a large sheet of paper. Note to the group that there are many more items on the whiteboard than the person with the longest individual list had. After that you will always get remarks about the issues. People will say that use 1 looks a lot like use 20, for example. This is a good bridge: you can say that creative thinking exercises like this work best without pre-discrimination or clustering but that the clustering will be done following this exercise. After that and with this exercise in mind, you will be better able to creatively think about any issue you need to imagine future possibilities for your fresh expression. This is an ideal way to start thinking about What will be? at any stage of your journey. How success is evaluated: by showing on the whiteboard that the group has a larger number of the number of possible uses of a paperclip than any one person can think of.

Source: Jan Visser https://www.sessionlab.com/methods/the-paper-clip-method

*Please note:*

*There may also be additional ‘what could be ideas’ on the first four gathering programmes that you could use.*