

## Notes for leading a discussion based on “Why Gather?”

### Opening question:

What are reasons you gather with others for any kind of event? What are the most fun gatherings? What are the most important gatherings? (Think about all of life’s simple and not so simple gatherings)

### Bible – Why did the church gather?

Acts 2:42–47 (NIV)

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What are the six parts of the early church’s gatherings (both in homes and in the larger group)?

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|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | b. _____ |
| c. _____ | d. _____ |
| e. _____ | f. _____ |

2. How do you know the early church gatherings were about God and not about just having a get together?

3. Why are large and small groups important to the future of the church? What is unique about both?

4. What makes gathering in small groups harder to do in our culture? What might help people overcome those difficulties in gathering?

### Conclusion

Prayer – prayer together for each other and for those you know who are not gathering with other believers.

**Practice** – Make a commitment to reach out by phone, text, email or posted card to 1 person who is more disconnected from others because of COVID-19 or other health issues.