



Gather to Pray



GATHER

"For where two or three
gather in my name,
there am I with them."

Matthew 18:20

One liners ...

"I was going to sail around the globe in the world's smallest ship but I bottled it."

"I would rather be Herod's pig than his son."



Gather

Acts 2:42

One of the key activities.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' **teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**.



Gather

Peter and John

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”



Gather

Hasmonean

Herodian

Herod the Great Mariamne

Aristobulus Archelaus Herod Antipas Philip

Herod Agrippa I Herodias



κρεῖσσον Ἡρώδου υἱά
εἶναι, ἢ υἱά.



“Peter is standing at the door!”

“You’re out of your mind!” When she insisted, they decided, “It must be his angel.”

Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking.

When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed. He motioned for them to quiet down and told them how the Lord had led him out of prison.



Gather



Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. They shouted, “*This is the voice of a god, not of a man.*”

Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

Acts 1:14

First things first - We are Centred on Jesus

On return from the ascension ...

They all joined together constantly in prayer,
along with the women and Mary the mother
of Jesus, and with his brothers.



Gather

Acts 21:5

Family Prayer Picnic - We are Committed to one another

When it was time to leave, we left and continued on our way.

All of them, including wives and children, accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray.



Gather

Acts 16:25

We are Connected to our community ...
maybe in unusual ways

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.



Gather

Acts 10:2

We are Connected to our community – whoever ...

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

Peter said, ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor.



Gather

Acts 3:1

Our approach - Disciplined pattern of prayer

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer —at three in the afternoon.



Gather

Acts 1:24

Key church decisions

Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ...



Gather

Acts 6:4

Key church decisions

Leaders – “We will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

Deacons - were presented to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.



Gather

Acts 14:23

Key church decisions

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.



Gather

Prayer meetings don't have to be perfect

Anywhere

Planned and/or impromptu

In pairs ... families ... “For where 2 or 3 gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Leaders – special responsibility

God listens to all who turn to him

Not a spiritual gift that some have and some don't – this is something we can all do.

Leading – spiritual sensitivity.



Acts 13

Open for guidance

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers ...

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.



Gather



GATHER

Prayer

Lord, may I be a disciple who loves to **Gather** with your church.

Help us to be **centred** on Jesus and **committed** to one another.

Help us to **connect** with our community, sharing Jesus with those around us.

Help me to fully play my part for your glory. Amen