

Launching Your Neighborhood Gathering

Phase One: Start by taking or sharing leadership.

First Things First:

- **Jesus is Lord.** This is where everything about the Christian life begins, not just for a Neighborhood Gathering leader but for every follower of Jesus.
- **Know you are called.** For all of us there is the general call of God such as to a life of prayer and sharing of our faith and then a specific calling around how we are to serve Him. *Neighborhood Gatherings are not random, they too are called.*

Usually a Neighborhood Gathering will be started by one or more people who share a common desire to reach a particular people group. They will then work out the logistics together as a team. • Sacrificial Life of prayer and service.



There is no escaping the fact that serving God, reaching people and seeing the Kingdom of God come on earth as it is in heaven will require a life of sacrifice. Jesus modeled this life and He will help us do the same.

Phase Two: Define the Dream

Vision at first may be both general and specific at the same time; it may be to reach a specific group or locality but lack details. Here are a few tips in discovering the dream that God may have for you that we learn in Calling Lab.

- What makes you angry or causes that sense of injustice? Your response might give you clues as to God's calling.
- Take a spiritual gifts test, which may reveal some things to you.
- Consider taking a personality test. This may give you some indication too as well as helping you find your place on the pioneering team.

Discovering the dream.

- Include those who are truly leaning into the process/conversation as you discover your calling as a Neighborhood Gathering.
- Define the dream not the form.
- At some point-define the DNA.
- Use basic training tools. Identity, discipleship, living on mission, Ecclesial Minimum
- Cultivate altar moments with Jesus at the center.



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Questions to ask yourself:

- Are there new ways?
- Are there others out there we can learn from?

Pitfalls:

- Not practicing what we preach.
- Perfectionism in the formation and launch process.

Phase Three: Give permission

- Unleash people to God-breathed horizons.
- Broaden the environment of training
- Hold a bias toward yes.
- Coach those leaning in.

Questions to ask Ourselves:

- Are we requiring too much training, too many qualifications?
- How do we help people prepare and be confident?

Pitfalls:

- Not being a practitioner yourself.
- Not living as a missionary.
- Requiring the perfect plan.

