

Gathering@Home Guide: Date

1. Welcome

- Decide when during the meeting to eat and share communion together
- Links to ALL resources related to this meeting:
 - <https://www.knexionschurch.com/discussion-tools>

2. Start with Gratitude moment and prayer

- talk about importance of gratitude relating to joy and connection to God
- Ask people to reflect on a recent event this week that they're grateful for
- the leader and/or participants share a gratitude if they are comfortable
- pray, including any shared gratitudes and for peace, focus from distractions as you continue

3. Worship together

- live music if applicable
- Youtube videos otherwise
- Suggested playlist available on web page and Youtube

4. Announcements

- Next Sunday Feb 1 at home church meeting
- Sunday Feb 8 meeting at hotel; Invite someone

5. Kids (If there are families with kids in group)

- play video for kids; link found in discussion tools on Knexions web site
- whole group participates in any activities suggested in video (support for families and kids)

6. Discovery Bible Study (DBS)

1. Overview of Reading

- Sermon on the mount
 - 9 sections
 - Character, complete, relationship, compassion, honesty, trust, humility, Generosity, Perseverance
 - Focus on 2 today: Character and Generosity

2. Pray - for minds to be open to know God/Jesus better and to be transformed

Gathering@Home Guide: Date

3. **Reading** - encourage everyone to read along on phone or tablet

- Matthew 5:1-16
- Matthew 7:7-12
- Try and imagine yourself on the hillside while Jesus is teaching.
- Think about what concerns, surprises or amazes you.
- options
 - have one person read
 - have multiple people read
 - listen to the passage being read in Bible app

4. **Re-tell highlights of the chapter**

- have one person re-tell the chapter summarizing the main points. Have others help them if they can't remember or skip something important
- OR go from person to person having each person retell the next highlight with group helping them as in previous suggestion

5. **Context** - things that might help understand the reading better

- **Character** - When Jesus sat down on the hillside and began to teach, He described who is truly blessed. Not the powerful or the proud, but the poor in spirit, the humble, the merciful, the peacemakers, and those who suffer for doing what's right—these are the ones who belong to God's kingdom and will be comforted and rewarded.
Then Jesus told His followers who they are: like salt that keeps food good, they are meant to bring out God's goodness in the world. And like a light set on a stand, they should not hide what God has given them, but let it shine where everyone can see.
He finished by saying that when they live this way—openly and faithfully—people will see their good works and be drawn to praise God, their Father in heaven.
- God sees us and wants his character and values to BE seen through us
- The life of followers of Jesus is to be shared and seen as a way to bring attention to God
- **Generosity** - watch Bible Project Video Generosity
- Jesus encouraged His followers to keep Asking, Seeking and Knocking. Asking is praying (God I need a job), Seeking is us acting on our prayer in faith (looking for and applying for Jobs) and Knocking is repeating Asking and Seeking until God responds
- God is a generous Father who listens and responds generously to us and we in turn do the same for others
- The golden rule (loving others generously) is what God has always intended in the Law and Prophets.

Gathering@Home Guide: Date

6. **Share** - what was amazing, concerning or surprising about the reading?

7. Answer questions

1. Jesus uses a metaphor of salt and light when talking about His followers. How does Jesus say we are salt and light? Is that how Christians are known today?
2. Jesus commands His followers to live by the Golden rule. What can we learn about how early Christian communities did this? (Read Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-37) How can we do it?
3. Some people say that it would be impossible to live the way Jesus suggests today. Make a list of what is hard to live the way Jesus suggests and why. Then compare to what we know of Jesus audience back then. Is it harder today? Even if it is, do you think Jesus expects His followers to obey anyway?

8. Reflection and Application

- Based on today's reading and discussion, what is one practical step that I can do this week to live this out?

9. Prayer

- Ask people to share needs if comfortable and then take turns praying for needs
- Leader wraps up in prayer for unity in our community and for opportunities to Bless and share with family, friends and neighbours

6. Ending the Meeting

- let the meeting end naturally
 - If the last thing is prayer after the DBS then that is a natural ending point. People may want to continue to talk or switch conversations to something else
 - if the last thing is eating together then let the conversation continue. Be mindful of the host home. Confer with them if the meeting needs to end at a specific time
- remind everyone of the next time we meet