

# UNLEASH - Part 1

## Gather

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Part of UNLEASHGATHER - GROW - GO

September 11, 2022



Over the last nearly three years our world has changed in so many ways.

The brochure is literally only the tip of the iceberg of where we believe God is leading us in the next three years.



# GATHER

We care for and support one another with a sense of belonging through gatherings and serving.



# GROW

We grow in our understanding of God's Word, increasing our commitment to our relationship with Jesus Christ.



**GO**

We inspire and mobilize our church family to serve our local community, inviting and welcoming them to Gateway.

**INTENSA**  
**CHURCH**

# INTENSE CHURCH

GET READY FOR OUR FIRST  
SERVICE AS INTENSE CHURCH



Hilton  
Garden Inn

OCTOBER 2ND, 2022  
10:00 AM

8001 MONROE RD HOUSTON, TX 77061



# INTENSA

## CHURCH

DOMINGOS | SUNDAY

10:00 AM

8001 MONROE RD  
HOUSTON, TX 77061

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## **GATHER**

*Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."  
—Genesis 2:18 (NLT)*

**This passage affirms God's intention that human beings weren't created to live life alone - we were created to live in community.**

*And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.*

*—Acts 2:44-47 (NLT)*

**The early church recognized how easy it was for Christians to let community, an important part of any spiritual journey, slip.**

*And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some*

*people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

*—Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)*

**God created us to live our lives in community, especially with other disciples of Jesus Christ, because biblical community feeds our need for being together, for belonging, and it is one of the primary ways God grows us spiritually.**

*We weren't created to be independent, autonomous, or self-sufficient. We were made to live in a humble, worshipful, and loving dependency upon God and in a loving and humble interdependency with others. Our lives were designed to be community projects. Yet, the foolishness of sin tells us that we have all that we need within ourselves. So we settle for relationships that never go beneath the casual. We defend ourselves when the people around us point out a weakness or a wrong. We hold our struggles within, not taking advantage of the resources God has given us.*

*—Paul Tripp*

**Community is also where we can learn about God's grace and have permission to try it out and even mess it up sometimes.**

**The church isn't a hotel for saints but a hospital for sinners, and that means it's filled with imperfect people.**

*...Love your spiritual family...*

*—1 Peter 2:17 (Message)*

**Because our spiritual family is going to go on forever and ever, God wants us to learn to love each other now, even though we're all imperfect.**

**We all need a place where we can be real and practice living as Jesus did, recognizing that sometimes we'll do it wrong.**

*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.*

—Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)

Here at Gateway, we understand that part of our responsibility of leading everyone to become more like Jesus is to help Gather people together as an intentional means of growth and the life God desires for each one of us.



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**THREE MAJOR AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE *NEXT THREE YEARS***







# MEET

Create intentional opportunities to linger, gather, eat, serve and share life together as a church family.



# OFFER

Provide groups for adults of all ages and stages, and remove barriers to finding true community.

**FIRST STEPS TO FOCUS ON IN THE *COMING YEAR***



# FIRST STEPS

Establish a Connectedness Team or Ministry to serve on Sundays & at events who will intentionally reach out to connect with guests.



# FIRST STEPS

Re-vamp website & App making them more user-friendly



## FIRST STEPS

Use multiple ways to communicate,  
inspire & seek feedback



## FIRST STEPS

Establish new groups or ministries

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**Because you want to be more involved, Gateway is intentionally moving away from our old model of being so staff driven to depend much more on our church family.**

**By joining in, you not only help Gateway move forward in the goals you helped us set, but you also start to fulfill them in your own life by gathering, as well as growing and going.**

*Sign up to serve on a Task Group [online](#) or at Gateway's Next Steps area.*

**When folks who want to help, who are gifted to help, whose job or skills or talents or interests or spiritual giftedness naturally incline them to help with some of the ministries of the church, aren't given the opportunity to do so, they often end up feeling unneeded and unwanted.**

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*—Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV11)*

**When pastors, staff and leaders don't help you join in the community and serve, we rob you of opportunities to grow spiritually and become more like Jesus.**

**Next Week - Unleash: Grow**