

Ordinary Gathering Guide

Intro:

*It's summer! We find ourselves in ordinary time, a time in which we learn to pay attention to the good news in the particulars of that which is routine and regular. Within the ordinary, God's goodness abounds. Together, we **act on**, **nurture**, and **discover** the good news of what God continues to do among us, as we participate in the unfolding kingdom of God here and now. We take time to celebrate the goodness of God, the goodness in one another, and the good news. During this season, we are stretched to grow in our imagination of what could be. We consider what it looks like to grow in the ordinariness of gathering together, not only among ourselves, but with our neighbors in ordinary spaces.*

Gathering Basics:

Some things are just so obvious, but we could all use a reminder....

:: Grab at least one other friend and commit to meeting together. Take a look at AND and consider how you might go about gathering with intentionality.

:: Pick a consistent time and location.

:: Provide a hospitable and safe space - consider providing snacks or gathering for a meal, around a table.

:: Pay attention to the Spirit. Who might you invite to join you?

:: Invite people to join you!

:: Enjoy the beauty of ordinary gathering, take delight in one another's company and how God is moving among you.

AND Language and Ordinary Conversation Discussion Prompts:

Of course, meaningful conversation starts with active listening and attentiveness to the person in front of you. From there, you can reflect back to the person what you hear and ask clarifying questions with compassionate curiosity. Here are some examples:

Act: Name where the Spirit is moving in our lives and calling us to embodied participation in God's redeeming activity in the world.

Together, reflect on these experiences and identify how you might be held accountable to re-integrate that reflection back into practice, as we continue to discover the good news and be nurtured in it.

Where do you sense movement? Where is what you're experiencing leading you?

Is there anything you're avoiding right now?

What do you think that means for you in the next three/six/twelve months?

Is there anything you need to do *or* stop doing?

Nurture: Wonder together. Hold space to tell, and listen to, stories. Ask questions with compassionate curiosity. In what ways does the good news need to talk hold in our lives? And how God is moving us to embody the good news in the world? How is your walk with Jesus?

Tell me more about ____?

What is piquing your curiosity these days? What are you learning right now?

I wonder if you can locate ____ (the pain, sadness, joy, beauty, goodness or Christ) in what you're discovering?

How can I/we support/encourage you in ____?

Discover:

As we foster a haven of belonging, name the good news at work in one another's life. Exploring this week's scripture reading(s), name the ways in which you see God re-narrating the world, or sharing your experience of the love of God enfolding you in divine union. Together, discover the kingdom of God breaking forth here and now.

What does that mean to you?

How does/did that news/experience make you feel?

How are you experiencing God in the midst of ____?

Can you help me understand ____?