



Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

Discipleship Series Interactive Worship - Getting Together (Gathering)

Preparation

You will need:

- Letters G A T H E R (Appendix 1).
- A large ball of string.
- Pieces of a jigsaw puzzle to give out.
- Small simple jigsaws that people can make together.

Bible Passage

Acts 2:42–47

Introduction

Invite the congregation to thank each other for coming to worship today and to greet each other, finishing with 'I am glad you are here.'

Thought

Print out or draw the letters below and as you speak, show them gradually to reveal the word GATHER (Appendix 1).

G – Generous: to live in community we need to be generous with each other, with our time, our gifts and talents and our resources (Acts 2:42–47).

A – Accepting: to live in community we need to accept each other as we are and not expect people to 'be like us'. We can learn to celebrate our differences (Romans 15:5–7).

T – Together: to live in community everyone should feel valued; we are in it together (James 2:1–4).

H – Help: a good community tries to help each other (Isaiah 41:6).

E – Every day: community is not just about one day a week (Acts 2:46).

R – Relationship: God created us to be together (1 Corinthians 12:27).

The word *gather* means to come together. It is a verb, an active word. God calls us to togetherness. He longs for his people to be one because he knows we need each other. It was his penultimate prayer for us: 'My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one.' (John 17:20–21 NIV). His final prayer was 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' (Luke 23:34 NIV).





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Participation

1. Ask for 5–10 volunteers to come to the front and get into a circle in age order, starting with the youngest and ending with the oldest. (This may cause commotion and could take a long time with a large congregation but it is important that people talk and share their age etc; it is part of the activity.) Throw a ball of string around the group, each person holding onto the string until there is a large 'spider's web effect'.

Point out that we are bound together as God's people, we are all important and we need each other.

2. Ask people to get into small groups and spend a few minutes making a jigsaw puzzle together. Point out that we need to fit together to create the picture of the Church that God intended. While the groups are making their jigsaw, ask them to share what they enjoy about coming to church and meeting with others as God's people.

Worship

- SB 971 Onward Christian soldiers
- SB 1005 Brother, sister, let me serve you
- SB 1007 Let there be love
- SB 813 For I'm building people

Response

Pass around a basket with jigsaw pieces in it. Invite people to take one and hold it. As they do so, ask them to reflect on how they are drawing close to God and to others. After they have done so, ask them to place their piece at the front, symbolising a full picture of community and their individual contribution to it as disciples of Jesus.





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Appendix 1

G A

T H

E R

