



DISCOVER **D** NURTURE **N** ACT **A**

OVERVIEW

Gathered.
Church

gathered.church

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF KEY TERMS:

MISSIONAL MICROCHURCH - Similar to a Missional or Gospel Community. An intimate-sized group (6-8 core team), small enough to know a lot about each person in the family, seeing heart motives and blind spots. They are able and committed to regularly overlapping throughout the week.* **This is where the shared life of Christ (body life) is seen and experienced most clearly and gospel fluency is easily practised.**

** For things like meals, sharing pains and joys, encouragement, to have fun together, to create spaces that welcome other not-yet-followers as friends, shared mission etc.*

CHURCH GATHERING - These gatherings are made up of 2-4 local MC's (MicroChurch), meeting together regularly to read the scripture, worship, share communion and practice listening to/obeying the Spirit together. **During these times the leaders facilitate discussions, allowing space for each person and spiritual gifts to be used.**

BODY LIFE - The everyday life of One Body in Christ. Local believers (and broader when possible) practicing the way of the kingdom together while serving and blessing those distant from Jesus. **“Not just doing stuff together” but sharing the very life of Christ* with one another.**

** Human cells make up the human body, each carrying and sharing the same life that was placed within the first cell. An “organisation” derives power from the association of individuals, but a Body derives its power from the sharing of life. In this case the shared life of Christ, by way of the indwelling power and presence of the Holy Spirit.*

GOSPEL - Is the story of God, creation to new creation, with Jesus at the centre. It is not just the good news of what Jesus did, but it is why he did it, what he is currently doing and what he will do. **We have been saved from the penalty of sin, we will be saved from the presence of sin and we are being saved from the power of sin.**

APPRENTICE OF JESUS - In our time and culture, the word “apprentice” is closer to the first-century word disciple than our use of the word “disciple” today.* An apprentice doesn’t just have knowledge but also practices living out that knowledge. The word is not an abstract religious word but holds meaning outside of the church. Also, helps track growth within others and allows appropriate expectations for each other.** **We are lifelong learners, but at some point must be able to apprentice others as we walk together following Christ.**

** Often an emphasis on knowing information about God/doctrines, but walking and doing as Jesus did are not usually the metrics evangelicals use when describing discipleship programs (usually once a week classroom setting).*

*** E.g. 1st-year apprentice expectations vs. 4th-year apprentice expectations.*

LEADERS - Men and women who are shepherds and Overseers within their Church Gathering. Those who others turn to for advice and guidance (*apprenticing*). Humble servants who pray for and care for the community out of love, *not obligation or duty (or for financial gain)*. Their unique gifts are used to edify and equip the Body. They are practising hospitality, self-control and kindness. **Most of all they are actively resting in the Father’s heart, listening to the Spirit in everyday life and wholeheartedly dedicated to Jesus’s kingship.**

MULTIPLY vs SPLIT - When growth in numbers occurs, it is important to send off new gatherings and/or kingdom families with purpose. When children in a healthy family grow up and start their own families, the family multiplies, it does not split. Splitting is simply managing or coping with numbers, multiplying is waiting on the Spirit for his strategic sending. Splitting usually occurs because of broken relationships, unrepented arrogance or a deeply competitive heart, all of which are forms of division. The Spirit does not divide but unites. **So when pain and hurts do occur within a community, the pursuit of gospel reconciliation is imperative.**

WHAT IS A DNA GROUP?

It can go by a dozen different names, but essentially a “DNA group” refers to a group of 3 (or 4) people – men with men, women with women – who meet together regularly (at least 2 times a month, preferably weekly). These times provide a structure for us to care deeply for one another and to foster growth as apprentices of Jesus.

DNA stands for three key components in our Apprenticeship.

Discover, Nurture, Act. The goal is to help one another to discover the Father’s heart within scriptures and everyday life, to nurture the truths of Jesus (Gospel of the Kingdom) in our hearts, and to faithfully act on what the Spirit calls us to do.



Discover: Led by the Holy Spirit, the group will **learn** from scriptures and **share** what He has been teaching them. The goal is to teach the head. (*Romans 12:2*)



Nurture: Led by the Holy Spirit, the group will **repent** and **believe** in the gospel. The goal is to shepherd the heart. (*Colossians 2:6–7*)



Act: Led by the Holy Spirit, the group will **listen** and **obey** as he calls us to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. The goal is to empower the hands. (*Acts 26:20, James 1:22–25*)

DNAs should be a major factor in our growth as apprentices of Jesus. We can only Discover, Nurture and Act with the help of the Holy Spirit, so pray throughout the process.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM A DNA GROUP?

These small gatherings consist of sharing personal stories and struggles, asking questions, listening to each other, practising gospel fluency, reading together, praying, repenting and confessing sin, listening to the Holy Spirit and submitting to one another.

DNAs aim to meet regularly and are a priority for Body Life as the Gathered Church. This could be weekly or fortnightly. Weekly is preferred over fortnightly, but this is not law. For a group of 3 people, it is best to set aside at least 1.5 hours or for 4 people 2 hours (plan about 30 mins per person).

Focus is a key factor to consider: it's hard for three mums to have a DNA while their kids play at the park or for three commuters to talk on a crowded bus. *Meet in a place where everyone is comfortable and that is reasonably free of distractions.*

WHO SHOULD DNAS CONSIST OF?

It is helpful for a DNA to be made up of same-gender groups of people, and ideally from your Kingdom Family, but the wider Church Gathering is a close second. This will help ensure another regular touchpoint outside of the Sunday gatherings. It will also allow you to share your life, heart, motives and vulnerability with a few trusted people you are close to.

However, there will be times when DNAs will not be made up of men or women in the same Kingdom Family or Gathering, but from the broader Gathered Church. This may be due to gatherings recently multiplying or leaders from different Kingdom families supporting new leaders. Or it may seem right to continue pouring into and equipping a particular apprentice relationship before entrusting them to someone else.

The point being, the ideal is to DNA with people you are doing life with, but again, this is not law. **The key is to follow the Spirit's leading and to keep in mind the goal of growing as apprentices of Jesus.** *If those within a DNA group are no longer being challenged and transformed, it is almost certainly time for a change.*

WHY 3 IN A DNA?

We rarely, if ever, find Jesus with only one of his disciples. In our experience as a church family, we have found that three is the ideal size for a DNA group.

If you are accustomed to one-on-one meetings, there's a number of reasons to add a third person:

- It is much more difficult for one person to dominate the conversation.
- There are two sets of ears filtering everything that is said, providing two unique perspectives in response.
- There are two people loving and supporting each person in the group. *No one is bearing another's burdens alone.*

On the other hand, if you are accustomed to small groups of 4–8, there's a number of reasons to limit it to three (where possible):

- No one can “hide,” remaining silent for very long before someone asks, “What do you think?”
- Each person has an ample opportunity to share at each group meeting.
- Scheduled group meetings don't last multiple hours (catch up \approx 30 minutes per person).

Though three is the ideal size, life is messy and sometimes it makes sense to have a slightly larger small gathering. Things like schedule conflicts and a lack of mature leaders can lead to groups of 4 or 5 meeting together for a time. *While not ideal, these options are better than only two people meeting on a consistent basis.*

DNA LEADERS

Yes, you read that right. There will be times where one or two in the DNA are younger in spiritual maturity and will naturally look to one person to lead.

Having a leader drive the discussion for a season (modelling healthy listening and focus) is a natural part of an apprenticeship. It is helpful to have someone facilitate the conversations and initiate the questions. However, over the course of a year or so, each person will grow and need space to practice

leading within the group. This helps train each other up for multiplying when the Spirit leads.

For some groups, where all participants have similar experience and spiritual maturity, initiating and leading questions/discussions can naturally move from person to person, depending on how each person is travelling that week. It is still important, however, to be aware that we quickly slide into the path of least resistance, and the more confident or louder people will unknowingly take over. Keeping this in mind is part of the path of maturing as apprentices.

A DNA group provides a great training ground for the body to learn the basics of leading in a group setting.

*Each **church gathering** will have someone who is naturally a shepherd leader. They will be someone within the gathering that the family turns to regardless of whether or not they have a title. Their role in the gathering will be a natural one for them, caring for the family by providing counsel and encouragement for DNAs to thrive.*

DNA GROUP GROWTH, MULTIPLICATION, AND TRANSITION

The ideal is that after a year or two of close growth, DNAs are able to easily multiply, so that others can experience the depth and level of care DNAs offer. However, occasionally groups may need to stay together longer, but the goal is to eventually branch out and let others experience it.

After a significant time of growth or when the Spirit makes it clear, groups will look to make strategic apprenticing investments in other people and “multiply” their efforts as a group. There may also be times when a group will be forced to navigate the inevitable changes that life throws their way – people moving away, kingdom families multiplying, etc. This may lead to earlier multiplication.

It is important that splits do not occur, where a group simply breaks up and goes their separate ways. When a group splits we lose something, but with multiplication, we gain.

*The bottom line is that there is no formula for growth and multiplication of a DNA group. **Every situation is different, and the group's members must be willing to submit to the Spirit's leading.***

The members of a DNA group should enter the relationship expecting long-term commitment to one another, even if the exact nature of the relationship changes over time.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Reflective Questions around Bible Reading: (Fruit to Root)

WHO IS GOD?

WHAT HAS HE DONE?

WHO ARE WE?

WHAT DO WE DO?

Four Great Truths to Remember: (4Gs)

God is Glorious: we don't have to fear others or look elsewhere for approval.

God is Great: we don't have to be in control or look to others for security.

God is Good: we don't have to turn to anyone or anything else to be fulfilled.

God is Gracious: we don't have to strive for worth or search for significance.

Questions to Help Explore the Heart:

- What are you believing about yourself/God?
- What do you desire? What do you feel you need?
- What do you feel entitled to?
- What do you fear?
- Where are you looking for refuge or comfort?
- Whose opinion of you counts?

TIPS for Healthy Listening:

1. Remember we need the Spirit to care well for each other, so practice listening to him as you listen to each other.
2. Practice asking around 10 questions for every piece of advice you give.
3. Practice asking open-ended questions, not leading questions.
4. Let each other finish their thought process before adding your thoughts. "Tell me more" is often very effective to help this.
5. Refrain from cutting in with your "similar story." Relating to each other is very important but knowing when to share your experiences is something worth practising. (Tip: you will know they have finished their thoughts when they ask you a question.)

Also see Appendices 3, 4 and 5 for greater details.

4 GUIDING QUESTIONS

These four questions have been helpful to uncover our heart motivations without guiltting people into *pretending or protecting*. Their focus is to bring about gospel discussion by discovering truths together, nurturing each other's hearts and encouraging action.

These questions can be asked regularly to those in your Kingdom Family and Church Gatherings, not just in DNA groups. However, **DNAs are a great place to practice thinking in these terms. And these 4 questions will be a major part of each DNA.**

Keep in mind every time you meet...



1. How have you enjoyed/experienced the Father's love this week?

(As **Adopted children**, sons, daughters and heirs)



2. What has the Spirit been saying to you? And how do you need to respond?

(As **Apprentices of Jesus**)



3. What areas of the Gospel are you struggling to believe? And how might it affect the way you reflect Jesus?

(As **Ambassadors of the King** and his kingdom ways)



4. What might this week look like, in order to bless and serve those distant from Jesus?

(As **Disciple-Making-Disciples** and **Sent Ones**)

GETTING STARTED

There are a few points to highlight before we start.

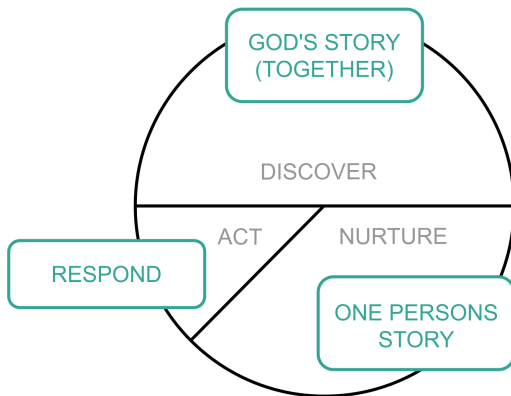
1. DNAs are one way we learn how to abide in the Spirit. Regularly involve the Spirit in the conversation, he is the 4th person in the DNA. *Listen to him and pray as you go.*
2. DNAs are a learning ground and a safe space to practice. So, *actively take hold of any cynical, sarcastic or sceptical spirit among the group*, because they breed an unhealthy culture that welcomes pretending to be better and protecting the lies we build.
3. You will find some very helpful appendices at the end of this booklet, which would be great to either read together on your first DNA meeting or separately before you meet.
We at Gathered Church did not create them all, but have permission to use them and have credited the creators in each Appendix.
4. There are two very different structures of DNA. Each is important.
 - a. First are the **Foundational Meetings**. It is crucial to follow a slightly stricter structure designed to help set things in motion, for long term benefit.
 - b. Second is the **Standard Meetings**, which is much less structured and only works well after the foundational stage. This allows more space to pause or focus on a specific question if needed.

Foundational Format

The formative stage of a DNA group is very important. The first few meetings will set the scene for how the group will interact in the future. This will be the first 7–8 times you meet. The structure of these times will lay a foundation for the rhythms, habits and culture of the DNA. They will help set you up with similar language and deep trust for one another.

Standard Format

After those first few months, You will then be able to share deeper and focus on specific questions and readings. You will have heard each other's stories and shared your own, a couple of times. And walls will be starting to come down, allowing each other to be caring well for each other's hearts.



FOUNDATIONAL DNA (7–8 weeks)

About
30–40
Mins

Spend time reading and discussing ONE of the different sections of God's Story (7 sections so this will take 7 weeks).

Refer to **Appendix 1** to get God's Story resource

- *God's Story reminds us that everything is about Him; that our stories are within His story; that our understanding of who we are should flow from that story.*
- *Spend time reflecting on the Group Discussion Questions after each section (within the resource).*

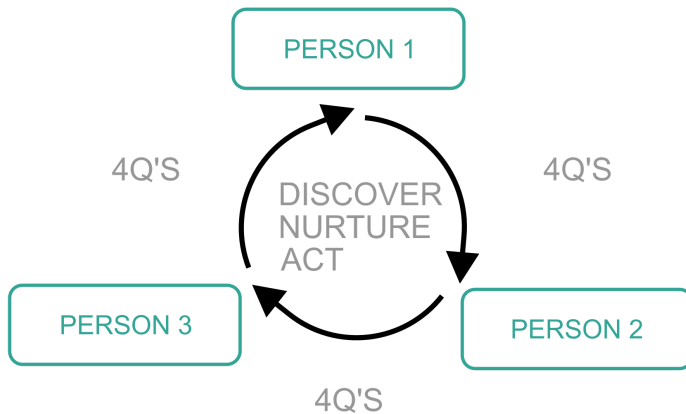
About
20–30
Mins

Spend time listening to one person practicing their story. Telling their story with Jesus as the hero. See **Appendix 2** as a tool to help you prepare.

- *Each person practices their story (one person each meeting) while the others get to practice listening for the heart as stories are being shared (see **Appendix 4**).*
- *Once everyone has shared, repeat it (so you can practice a second time and learn from the first). This will take 6 weeks if there are 3 in the DNA, 8 if there are 4.*

About
10–15
Mins

Still focusing on the same person who shared their story, take time to reflect back how you heard Jesus as a hero. **You can start to incorporate the 4 Guiding Questions.**



STANDARD DNA (ongoing)

About
2 Hours

To do this well you will need to set aside a good chunk of time (*not just a quick lunch break catch up*). The ideal would be about 30 per person. The 4 Guiding Questions help in a conversational way, to dig deeper without heaping guilt or shame on each other. (Connecting with our identities – Adopted, Apprentices, Ambassadors)

These meetings are simply conversations with intentional direction. (Tip: Don't set a timer and give each person 30 mins, then move on to the next person.) ***Listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit.***

Discover – It is helpful to read/learn something together (a chapter per week), this could be, *but doesn't always have to be*, a book of the Bible (see [Appendix 3](#)).

Nurture – DNA groups are designed to help identify these areas of sin and idolatry in our lives. Nurture is about ensuring what we know aligns with what we believe (see [Appendix 4](#)).

Act – The goal is to empower the hands so that, in light of their repentance, each person knows **what to do** and **who to tell** every time the group meets (see [Appendix 5](#)).

May the Holy Spirit lead
every DNA group to
Discover, Nurture and Act
in light of all that Jesus
has accomplished, to the
glory of God the Father.

APPENDIXES

ONE – FIVE

Appendix ONE | GOD'S STORY

Authored by Seth Emery and available through www.4thSeedMinistries.com

You can download the Free e-book PDF at 4thSeedMinistries.com/resources or purchase the physical version with a small cost to cover printing.

This will play a big part in the first foundational/formative DNA meetings. It is helpful to be using the same language and definitions as you meet together.

God's Story retells the biblical story with God at the centre, intentionally placing the focus back on who God is and what he has done, and then who we are in light of that. It is broad on purpose, leaving room for the Spirit to prompt and direct conversation.

There are 7 parts to this particular retelling of God's Story, each with discussion questions designed to help us discover the heart of God while finding ourselves within his Kingdom plans. It also has a section of deeper diving into the story that may or may not be useful in the DNA setting.

This comes from the book *Picture the Story*, released in 2018 and we are free to use the content.



Appendix TWO | JESUS AS HERO

This has been shaped and developed by Gathered Church, based on several resources available through www.saturatetheworld.com - We want to thank Saturate for their generosity and willingness to share with us.

All of us are living our lives under a dominant story. We perceive the world and human interactions through the stories we know and believe. For most of us, that is our story of origin, our family story. This is a much smaller story inside the larger one, and often it leads us to wrong perceptions of God, ourselves, others and the world around us. In some cases, we believe outright lies.

As followers of Jesus, we expect every person will become familiar with God's Story so eventually our worldviews become realigned with God's intent for the world, our lives and our place within His eternal plan. AND we might also become more effective Gospel Listeners who can bring the gospel to bear on the lives of believers and unbelievers around us.

There are four distinct movements within God's story: CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, and RESTORATION.

CREATION

You have a fundamental belief about your Origin – who or what gave you existence, made you who you are and shaped you into the person you are today.

*The key question here: **Who or what do you credit for who you are?***

FALL

You have a fundamental belief about the cause of brokenness and have a deep desire for Justice in the form of Righteous Judgment. People blame someone or something for what they've become AND want justice for the wrongs.

*The key question here: **Why are things and people not the way they are supposed to be and who is to blame for it?***

REDEMPTION

You have a solution you believe in, a remedy you look to, or a saviour you believe will fix/redeem the brokenness in your life and world. Everyone believes in a redeemer or in a self-improvement plan of sorts.

*The key question here: **Who or what will rescue me and redeem what is broken?***

RESTORATION

You have a picture of the future when everything is as it should be. Some people's future hope is to be married... have children... get a job... be rich... etc.... Everyone wants something better... restoration of what they believe their world should be like.

*The key question here: **What will the world or your world look like when all is as it should be AND who or what will be the focus of this world?***

When sharing your story think through these categories and questions...

	FOR LIVE/CURRENT STORY	FOR YOUR BIGGER STORY - "TESTIMONY"
CREATION	Why am I who I am today? What/who do I look to, trust in, depend on, for my worth?	What was my life all about? What did I live for?
FALL	How is that* failing? What is the real problem/issue? <i>* the answer to Creation Question</i>	Where did it get me? How was it forming my Character?
REDEMPTION	What will make this right? How is Jesus a better option?	How did the good news of Jesus answer this?
RESTORATION (NEW CREATION)	Where is hope and confidence found?	How does this still affect me today? What are the implications of this?

Appendix THREE | Study Questions

Authored by Abe Meysenburg, and available through www.Saturatetheworld.com

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” **John 14:26***

HOW DO I STUDY THE BIBLE AND ASK THE 4 QUESTIONS?

A few things to keep in mind...

- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through His Word. It's His job to guide us into all truth and to glorify Jesus (John 16:13-14).
- Depending on the passage, a study Bible may be helpful in providing some important background information. Commentaries can be helpful as well, but most will provide too much information and could be distracting. Keep it simple!

FOUR STUDY QUESTIONS

1. WHO IS GOD?

What does the text say about the character and nature of God? The Bible is God's story – Father, Son, Spirit – so we begin by asking about how His character and nature are revealed in what we're reading. The story is about Him! Look for specific references to His attributes: holy, eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present, unchanging, compassionate, gracious, patient, loving, kind, good, gentle, etc. In narrative portions, look for implied references to His attributes. What does the story reveal about His character and nature as Father, Son and Spirit?

2. WHAT HAS HE DONE?

What does the text say about the work of God? God's work throughout all of human history is diverse and magnificent. All of it is worth proclaiming! However, the person and work of Jesus is revealed on every page of the Bible (Luke 24:27). He is the hero and the main character.

The Spirit does not want us to miss Jesus! Look for references to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, either through foreshadowing (saving Noah in the flood, redeeming Israel from slavery in Egypt, King David as a man after God's own heart), through prophecy (Psalm 22, Isaiah 53) or through the New Testament story of Jesus' earthly life and the establishment of His Church. This ensures a uniquely Christian, gospel-centred answer to this question.

3. WHO ARE WE IN LIGHT OF THAT?

What does the text say about our identity? God has always been working to save "a people for His own possession." (1 Peter 2:9) Throughout the Bible, note the things that are true of God's people. This adds depth and richness to our understanding of who we are as New Covenant believers. For example, the Levitical priests were anointed and set apart for special service to God. Now, we are all anointed with God's Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22) and, because of Jesus, are all a part of God's "royal priesthood," set apart for special service to God.

4. HOW DO WE LIVE?

In light of all of this, how does it change the way we live? When reading the Bible, we almost always start with the question, "How does this apply to my life?" But rightly motivated, gospel-centred action flows out of an understanding of who God is, what He's done, and who we are in light of God's character and work. Rather than starting with this question, end with it.

And then, take action! Jesus warns against being merely a hearer of His Word but not a doer (Matthew 7:24-27). The gospel motivates and empowers us to live in an entirely new way.

Appendix FOUR | Listening For The Heart

Authored by Abe Meysenburg from his Gospel Shepherding teaching, available from www.saturatetheworld.com and adapted by Gathered Church leaders to fit our context.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STORY

Every person has a story to tell. Whether the story of their day or the story of their life, the words they say are full of meaning and importance. If we want to grow in our ability to speak effectively about Jesus, to proclaim the gospel (to believers and not-yet-believers!) then learning how to listen to a person's story is crucial.

In **Luke 6:43–45**, Jesus helps us understand the connection between words, actions, and the heart. *“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.”*

Listening to a person's story is kind of like examining a fruit tree. Sometimes the fruit is obvious – financial difficulty, sexual sin, marital conflict, anger – mixed with love, joy, peace, etc. But the real action is under the surface, in the root structure of the tree. According to Jesus, actions and words reveal the heart. And the heart is of primary importance because the heart is the seat of faith. “With the heart, a person believes” (Romans 10:10).

A person's story has the potential to reveal where they have replaced Jesus as the only right object of faith. Jesus is the only one who can save and we regularly look to created things instead. These false saviours will often be revealed in our stories. Every great story contains at least four movements: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration (New Creation).

God's Story follows the same pattern. God's Story is the Great Story, the story that helps us make sense of all other stories. God's Story is the ultimate Good News, the gospel that we find on the pages of the Bible. Understanding the Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration pattern in God's Story will help us make sense of our stories, and of the stories we hear from people every day.

WHAT TO LISTEN FOR

Utilise the four movements as a tool for sorting the information in a person's story. Here are some guidelines and some key things to listen for along the way. It is vitally important to pray and ask the Spirit to give us ears to hear and to help us ask good questions if needed. And always thank the person for sharing their story!

CREATION: *The Key Heart Question to listen for:* Who or what defines them or gives them worth and value? Where is their Identity?

FALL: *The Key Heart Question to listen for:* What is “the” problem? Why do they believe people/things are not the way they are supposed to be?

REDEMPTION: *The Key Heart Question to listen for:* What is their solution? Who or what will rescue them and fix what is broken?

RESTORATION: *The Key Heart Question to listen for:* What is their hope? What will their world look like when all is as it should be?

HOW DO I LISTEN FOR THE HEART AS A GOSPEL SHEPHERD?

- We need to begin by asking the Spirit to give us ears to hear and a willingness to speak the truth in love.
- When meeting for the purpose of intentional shepherding, ask the person to come prepared to share their story.
- In an intentional shepherding setting, consider taking notes while listening.
- Whether hearing the story of a person's life or the story of a person's day, always listen for the heart.

KEY THEMES TO LISTEN FOR IN A PERSON'S STORY:

1. Emotional words. ("I'm angry." "I'm afraid." "I was really hurt.")
2. Interpretive words. ("This shouldn't happen." "I guess I'm getting what I deserve." "I wonder if it's even worth getting up in the morning.")
3. Self-talk. ("I am such a failure." "I am not smart enough, pretty enough, etc." "I have accomplished this and this and this." "I always got good grades and performed well in various activities." Listen closely for pride and insecurity.)
4. God-talk. ("I tried hard to obey God." "How could God let this happen to me?" "God's never done anything for me." "God is punishing me." Listen closely for denial, blame, and an unwillingness to take responsibility.)
5. Stated motives. ("I wanted to get even. I wanted revenge." "I was so ashamed, I decided to never tell my parents." "I need people to like me. I need their approval." "I feel so guilty, I could never forgive myself".)
6. Patterns of behaviour, positive or negative. Listen closely for power and control.
7. Destructive or repeated sin. ("I started drinking when I was 12." "I slept with more women than I can count." Listen closely for sources of comfort and self-medicating.)
8. Abuse or neglect. ("My dad would scream at me if I came home with C's." "I was raped by my step-brother when I was 12." "I used to play alone in my room most of the time." "The kids at school used to call me fat." Listen closely for a victim mentality.)
9. Dad and mum. ("I've never met my dad." "My mum gave me everything I wanted." "My dad said he wished I was never born." "I don't remember my dad hugging me." "Nothing was ever good enough for my mum.")

Always provide encouragement to a person who has just shared their story. In a DNA setting, consider asking a few initial follow-up questions right away.

ENCOURAGEMENT AFTER THEIR STORY

- Thank you for sharing your story. It is an honour to hear it!
- Your story is an amazing story about God and his work (most people will not see this, but you should say it anyway). God is in this!
- It is very easy to focus on your circumstances at a time like this. I feel like I understand a little of how you are feeling. But God is primarily concerned with your heart in this situation. He wants to keep pulling your focus up out of your current circumstances and back onto him. Keep watching for your heart responses in the midst of this trial.

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER CLARITY (IF NEEDED)

- Tell me about your relationship with your dad.
- How did you feel when that significant event happened?
- Did that hurtful situation ever get resolved?
- How old were you when that happened?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- Where are you still struggling to believe the gospel?
- How has this situation helped you see your sin more clearly?
- Where do you see God at work in this situation?

Appendix FIVE | Listening to the Spirit

THROUGH THE LENS OF OUR GOSPEL IDENTITY

Authored by Abe Meysenburg from his Gospel Shepherding teaching, available from www.saturatetheworld.com and adapted by Gathered Church leaders to fit our context.

Everyone “should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.” Acts 26:20

HOW DO I BEAR FRUIT IN KEEPING WITH REPENTANCE?

The Spirit will always call us to live out our gospel identity. Pray and listen to the Spirit, asking Him, “What do you want me to do?” and “Who do you want me to tell?”

Consider these questions connected to each of our identities, that can help direct our focus and put into practice the things the Spirit is saying. We must listen AND obey.

ADOPTED (Sons & Daughters, heirs of the Kingdom)

- Who should I love? And how?
- Who do I need to forgive?
- Who do I need to seek forgiveness from?

APPRENTICES (Learners, practitioners, servants of the good King)

- What do I need to practice that feeds or increases kingdom desires?
- What do I need to avoid that provokes or strengthens sinful desires?
- How can I pursue holiness and godliness?
- How can I help others in tangible ways?

AMBASSADORS (Sent ones, citizens of the Kingdom)

- Who should I spend time with, and how can I be intentional with that time?
- Who can I tell about Jesus’ work in me?
- What should I give (time, money, prayer), and to whom should I give it?



G a t h e r e d . C h u r c h

