

**THE
GATHERING
TRAINING
MANUAL**

The Gathering

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The Birthing of the “Gatherings”

“The Three Nets”

A Prophetic Vision

The Lord Jesus showed Bruce Snell a vision in August of 2002 of three nets.

He asked the Lord:

Q. What is the First net?

A. This Net is for **gathering** men.

Q. What is the Second net?

A. This Net is for **catching** men as they are falling.

Q. What is the Third net?

A. The Third net is **not a net** at all, but **looks like** My net and is actually Satan’s web that is used to entangle men!

In 2009, some six and a half years later, the Lord reminded Bruce of this vision.

The Lord asked – what do you call these meetings you are having with these men?

Bruce replied – Oh Lord, “A Gathering”!!!

Amen

Objective

Foundational Verse

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no vision, the people perish
(King James Version)

We have discovered that Godly vision and/or Godly revelation is available to all who cry out for it, “in the name of Jesus”.

We are gathered to ...

1. Strengthen, encourage and comfort “the brethren”.
2. Seek God’s revelation, in relation to what he is speaking to us.
3. Invite the Holy Spirit and receive what he has for us.
4. Realize it’s not about me, but about Jesus Christ and what he is doing in my life.
5. Receive eyes to see, ears to hear and a heart to understand.
6. Seek Jesus Christ – through prayer

We are not here to fix, give advice, judge or instruct our brother/sister.

Jesus is the comforter and counselor, not us.

7. Grow in intimacy with Christ, through his word and prayer – engaging Jesus Christ.

Stumbling block to a gathering...

1. The spirit of religion (gifts/works).
2. No personal/religious agenda, Jesus Christ is our agenda and focus.
3. Deception - **Revelation 20:3 (NIV)** describes Satan as a deceiver of the nations.
³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.
4. Stay on Christ – **Colossians 2:8 (NK J)**
⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.
5. The spirit of offense – **2 Corinthians 6:3 (NKJ)**
³ We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

Lessons learned...

1. No story telling or detailing what God is speaking to you.
2. Worth saying, worth praying, keep moving the conversations to prayer.
3. Not about our traditions (human), basic principles of the world.
4. Business as usual – The books of Amos and Haggai.
 - a. A great shaking – dealing with our complacency.
 - b. A repentive heart – **2 Chronicles 7: 14-15 (NIV)**

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.
 - c. Purge of things that are not of God – **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)**
¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here!
5. Become the spiritual leader God intended – first to cry out for our families, the Lord makes the decisions not us.
6. Our families aren't going to change until we change.
7. Making us the men of God, that he intended.
8. The man, husband, father, uncle, brother, friend God intends us to be.
9. At home, work, community, church.

10. Pray, pray without ceasing—keep going back to the truth “Jesus”.
11. Lay hold, cry out, pray in and receive what God is revealing.
12. If you can’t love Jesus Christ, you can’t love another.
13. Understand the gift of forgiveness, walking in God’s forgiveness.
14. If you want peace and joy, it’s Jesus – **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJ)**

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

15. No condemnation in Christ Jesus – **Romans 8:1 (NIV)**

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

16. Testifying about what God is doing in our lives, “not preaching, teaching or fixing” – **Psalms 25:4-5 (NIV)**

⁴ Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. ⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

17. Fellowship with the brethren – **1 John 1:7 (NIV)**

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^[a] sin.

1 John 2:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister^[a] lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble.

1 John 4:20 (NIV)

²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

Format of the Meeting

"The Process"

1. Overview (what is a gathering).
 - First to the entire group (larger gathering).
 - Repeat in the smaller groups (4-7 people).
2. Open in Prayer (leader/participants).
 - Bless this time and anoint participants with anointing oil.
3. Start with the new person's testimony.
 - (See New Participant section).
 - If no new people, go to step number 4.
4. Ask what the Lord is speaking to you– about you (revelation).
5. Pray for what the Holy Spirit has revealed.
 - Lay hold – Pray in – Lay on hands – Anoint with oil
6. After all have finished praying, ask if God revealed anything to anyone.
7. Leader moves to next person and repeats the process.
 - Repeat steps 5 and 6 until finished.
8. Leader brings together the revelation and praises the Lord for what he has done here this night.
9. End of time/fellowship.

Welcoming New Participants

“The Right Hand of Fellowship”

1. Ask others to share a testimony of what Jesus Christ has done for them and how they have been transformed.
2. Start with the new person to share.
 - What is their relationship like with the Lord?
 - What is going on in their life?
3. Leadership asks about Generational Curses.
 - **Exodus:34 6-7 (New King James)**
⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”
 - **Deuteronomy 5:9-10 (New King James)**
⁹ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, ¹⁰ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.
 - Show how sometimes we look at it as a “tendency” or habit (destructive and abusive).
 - Give examples of own life (pride, fear, anger etc.).
4. Ask new person for response or thoughts—when in doubt—pray.
5. Laying on of hands, anoint with oil and pray for the new person.
 - Explain that the “anointing and laying on of hands” is scriptural.
 - Purge heart – bring from dark to light.
 - Pray to rededicate their life of Jesus Christ.
 - Repent of sins of the father and grandfather.
 - Pray in generational blessings.
 - **Mark 6:13 (New King James)**
¹³ And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed *them*.

- **Luke 4:40 (New King James)**

⁴⁰ At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.

- **Acts 28:8-9 (New Kings James)**

⁸ His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. ⁹ When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.

- **James 5:14-16 (New King James)**

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

6. After all have finished praying, ask if God had revealed anything to anyone.

- If so, pray it in.

7. Ask the new person to pray.

8. Leader moves to the next person and asks what God has been speaking to them.

- Repeat steps 5 and 6 until finished.

Group Leader Responsibilities

“The Format”

1. The main purpose is to make sure that the group stays focused on what God is doing in THEIR life and what God is speaking to THEM.
2. Reference or reading of scripture is encouraged for all the participants. The Bible should be the only source of praying through issues.
3. Start with anyone who is attending for the first time (see instructions).
4. Listen intently to what is being said. Participants should not be allowed to teach, preach or story tell. ALWAYS bring it back to Christ and pray about each issue. Revelation happens when the Holy Spirit uses each participant (the body) to bring out relevant issues in our lives. There are always connections.
5. Do not allow issues to get “stacked”. Stop and pray about each issue. Spend as much time as necessary on each issue.
6. If correlating issues are present, encourage members to lay hands on the person being prayed for and it is important that participants pray for each other especially if they have dealt with the same or similar issues.
7. Follow up with each person once they have been prayed for by the group to see if anything came to mind or was revealed to them.
8. Although the Guide/Leader should be the main person to keep the group focused, the entire group should control itself.
9. Time is important, but do not make the group uncomfortable or aware of how much time each person has to share. There are no set time limits for each person. Each person comes into that session with individual issues that may require more time than others. Use common sense to move on or stay on an issue. Each person will not get equal time and that is good. Again, it comes back to what Jesus is doing, not about me and my turn. Try and follow what the Lord is doing—not your agenda.

10. The Gathering is to strengthen, encourage, and comfort each other. Keep that in mind when determining if anyone is crossing any lines.
11. Encourage all the members of your group to pray. Some people are not very comfortable praying and need to be asked to pray. Everyone does not need to pray for each person in the group, but make an effort to have everyone in the group to pray at least once for somebody else.
12. Keep in mind that all of us are made in God's image and have sinned. We are not here to judge, condemn, correct, give advice, or speak negatively about anyone's church or denomination. The "spirit of religion" will try to steer good fellowship in a negative direction.
13. FELLOWSHIP – There are not many venues where men can be completely open and transparent. The Gathering is built on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing your ongoing testimony by His saving grace. All participants should want something FOR you and not FROM you. If there is even a hint of a motive or agenda then it should be dealt with immediately.
14. Openness and transparency are keys to sharing what God is doing in each life. The more vulnerable each participant becomes and open to the Holy Spirit, the more revelation will occur. Encourage each person to receive the prayers being offered by the other members.
15. At no time should the Guide/Leader be a dominating factor in the group – you are there to serve the group and participate.
16. Close the Gathering in a prayer or ask someone who feels lead to pray to close in prayer.

Goals, Discoveries and Revelations

“The Testimony”

This is not necessarily a class outline or a list of rules, but simply a noted process of what God is doing.

1. Come together for the purpose of seeking God and encouraging others.

- Establishing a personal relationship with the Lord.
- No specific agenda except what God has revealed to us during the week, today or this moment.
- Be diligent to continue gathering together even if it seems awkward at first.
- Focus on what God is doing in us – “stay focused”.

2. Acknowledge where we are spiritually.

- Be honest with ourselves and with God about our struggles.

3. Ask God to reveal to us individually the things that hinder our relationship with Him.

- May be shared with the group, but in a general sense (there may be strongholds or addictions but its not about the issues its about the fact that they’re keeping us from intimacy with God).
- With a heart of repentance, pray that these things would be removed (this will continue throughout as things are revealed).
- Be persistent in seeking God through these difficult times because strongholds and distractions don’t give up easily, in fact God may be using these things to reveal what He wants to do in us.

4. Acknowledge God as our source of wisdom and understanding.

- We may be a brand new believer or have Bible training and years of Christian experience but the purpose here is to empty ourselves to receive from Him.
- God leads, we strengthen, encourage, and comfort through the Holy Spirit’s leading, and point back to Christ.

5. Pray that God would remove the scales from our eyes to see Him more clearly, to unstop our ears to hear his voice and open our mouths to speak what He reveals.

- Be sensitive to our surroundings, circumstances and people we come in contact with as God will use these things to speak to us.
- Write down and/or share with the group what God speaks even if it seems insignificant.
- Share only what God speaks or is revealing without adding our own understanding or interpretation to it.

6. Acknowledge God and thank Him.

- Acknowledge the fact that it is God that is revealing these things to us.
- Pray to receive what He reveals, that we would not be deceived by the flesh, but allow what is truly from Him to take root in our hearts and let the rest go.
- Praise and thank God for answering our prayers and revealing Himself to us.
- What we hear applies to us.
- God's word will not fall void.
- Give God the glory – always.

7. Allow the gifts of the Spirit to flow within this process of seeking God.

- As God begins to work in our midst the gifts of the Spirit will come into play, be patient with each other as we learn how to function in this area (the gifts are not given to create in us a sense of significance or give us an identity within the body, they are simply vehicles to administer Gods love to one another).
- Be kind and gentle in admonishing each other as we are all stepping out in faith and vulnerability.
- Allow God to work, trust God's way and love our brothers through the process.
- The focus is on Christ Jesus – the gifts come through the relationship!

8. Pray that God would teach us how to look beyond the exterior and truly love each other.

- We will all have ups and downs, times of great faith and extreme disappointment in this process, but be quick to stand in the gap and pray for those who are hurting and rejoice with those who experience a breakthrough.

9. Encourage each other to continue seeking God and recognizing His presence in every aspect of our lives and to share that experience.

10. Watch out for:

- Flesh out of control – The Holy Spirit is not out of control.
- It's not about me or what I have to say – but what is God doing at the moment – flow with the Holy Spirit, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit moving.
- Submitting to the flow of the Holy Spirit.
- Yielding to the Holy Spirit, surrendering, turnover.
- Learning spiritual disciplines.
- Everyone is to receive the word for themselves.
- It's not about being heard, but about being obedient.
- Emphasize what God is speaking to you.
- If you're feeling anxious about sharing, remember it's not about you, it's about God.
- Submit it to leadership and others in authority that God had placed you under.

11. It's Not About:

- Your job, ministry, - but it's about what is God doing.
- What the church isn't doing, - no church bashing.
- A new book or philosophy.
- Your own personal philosophy.

It's about our relationship with God.

- We are in a season of relationship with Christ Jesus – God will use these things to draw us closer to HIM.
- We pray for more of the Lord and then have a tendency to resist Him when He does move in our life.

12. Speak your testimony of what God has done in you through the Gathering process.

- Let nothing but the testimony of Jesus Christ come from your mouth.

13. Pray for a new man to be manifested through the laying of hands and being anointed with oil.

- Pray to open eyes and ears.
- Pray for an open heart.
- Pray that the person would be brought out of darkness into the light of God.
- Pray that hidden things would be revealed.
- God answers prayers – not conversation – so pray!
- The Lord pulls us out of the world's game into the spiritual to transform us.
- Pray without ceasing!

14. Pray for spiritual leadership.

- Pray to submit to God.
- Pray to be led by God.
- Pray for spiritual leadership in the family.
- Pray for spiritual leadership in the community, work place, and church.

15. What is spiritual leadership?

- To be the first one on our knees crying out to God.
- Who makes the decisions, God does!

16. Praying for the men - ask if God had revealed anything to them.

- Pray to encourage, strengthen, and comfort.
- Has God revealed anything specific to them during the time of prayer?

17. If the Lord has given them something, they need to be encouraged to:

- Speak what has been revealed.
- Lay hold of what was spoken.
- Pray to receive what was spoken.
- Speak life to the word.
- After praying go to the next man and repeat until all have been prayed for.

18. Process

- Repent of failures & shortcomings.
- Ask God for the spirit of conviction.
- Ask God for the spirit of repentance.
- Acknowledge that God is the source of life, of our redemption and our spiritual success.
- Ask God to reveal those things in us that hinder our relationship with Him and to begin to empty us out.
- Seek God daily, not for things, but simply to be in His presence.
- Ask God to speak to us individually and make us sensitive to His voice

- Begin to verbalize those things that He speaks to us, whether we think it is significant or not.
- Acknowledge His voice and work in our lives and thank Him.
- Stand in the gap “as God is processing us” for our brothers and sisters.

19. Conviction vs. Condemning Spirit

- The Holy Spirit convicts and focuses on the present.
- The devil condemns – a spirit.
- Spirit of condemnation usually sounds like this, “focus “with” the what if’s, of the past and future”.

20. Answer Prayer – God answers “all” prayers.

- Usually doesn’t come in the way we think.
- Not in our timing – but in God’s time.
- Comes from the most unusual sources.
- Not the people, place, or the way we think.
- Pray for God to reveal our answered pray to us.
- Most of the time we are standing in the middle of our answered prayer.
- Trust God, His ways are the best, they’re perfect!
- We want to be delivered from our circumstance but **“not from our sin”**.

21. Change/Growth – in the Lord.

- If it is change, then why would we understand?
- Just receive – God will process it out.
- Change on the outside is “physical”. Change on the inside is “spiritual”. An attempt to change the physical without first having an inside spiritual change, will not last.
- Change is fear – Don’t fear but TRUST in the Lord.

22. The Blank Check Prayer – usually goes like this:

- If I had _____ (usually money related) I would be ok.

23. Who is God – He is all things.

- We are not – God does the healing, counseling, gifts, etc. HIS will be done.

24. For Who’s Godly – His not ours – grace, grace, and more grace.

Appendix

“Scripture References”

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)

1 Corinthians 14:3 (NIV)

But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

Proverbs 29:18 (Revelation)

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.

1 Corinthians 13 entire chapter - (LOVE)

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³**And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.**

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Colossians 2:8

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Promotional Material

“The Details”

- Sample business card (next page)

←----Front side of business card--→

←---Back side of business card--→

Gatherings

"For the strengthening, encouraging and comforting of the brethren"

The purpose of the Gatherings is to provide a Safe Place filled with God's Grace and Love, where all ages & denominations can come together in prayer, allowing the Lord to speak to our hearts.

Through the supporting prayers of believers in Christ, we open our hearts and spirits to the Holy Spirit allowing Him to minister and change us that we may continually become more Christ-like.

We would like to encourage you to gather with fellow Christians to pray and seek God. We are developing a deeper relationship with Christ Jesus, who is transforming our families through His grace, revelation and written word.

Please come join us!!

<u>Day-Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Name</u>	<u>Contact Phone</u>
Thursday 7:00PM-8:30PM	Irmo	Steve Scoma	(803) 240-8797

We have discovered that at the altar is where we are altered, surrendering our will so that we can receive His. Through God's grace and mercy learning to serve Him and others for His glory.
