

THE GATHERING

Why do we gather?

- Edification—we gather to be _____ and _____. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Worship—we gather to _____ and _____ God. (Hebrews 13:15)
- Service—we gather to _____ for _____ for the sake of _____.
(Acts 13:2, Genesis 39:4, Deuteronomy 10:8, Ezekiel 44:11, Exodus 19:5-6, 1 Peter 2:5,9)

The Gathering as service

- When God's people gather, Jesus brings us into the _____ of God.
(Hebrews 10:19-22, Matthew 18:20, 1 Corinthians 5:4)
- When God's people gather in his presence, he gives their actions _____.
(Matthew 18:18-20, 1 Corinthians 5:4-5)
- God wants his people to use the gathering to change _____, _____,
and _____. (Hebrews 10:24-25, Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Conclusion

- We gather to _____, not to _____.
- A gathering is measured by how it _____, not how it _____.
- Gathering to serve God on behalf of the people can _____—and has _____—
the world.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Getting Started:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- What is your favorite part of the church gathering? Which part are you most interested to learn about during the sermon series?

2. Into the Bible (Read Psalm 84)

- What is the Psalmist's motive for writing the psalm? What are they feeling? (v. 1-2)
- What is the Psalmist's *inspiration* for writing the psalm? What did they see that moved them? (v. 3)
- Who is the Psalmist describing in verses 4-7? How do these people express their love for God's presence?
- Why does the psalmist love to be in the presence of God? (v. 8-12)

3. Going Deeper

- Do you generally think of the worship service as a special experience of God's presence? What difference does that perspective make?
- How does it change your mentality to view the worship service as something you *do*, not something you *watch*?
- How can the worship service transform individuals? How can it transform the congregation? How can it transform the world?

4. Prayer

- Pray for each other, that you would have a desire for God's presence and be transformed by gathering with his people.