



## **GATEWAY HOME CHURCH STRUCTURE**

The structure of the HOME Church gathering is based around the **Four W's: Welcome, Worship, Word and Witness**. Different HOME Church members, including children if present, may lead any or all of the sections. Some HOME Churches often vary the order of the sections (i.e. worship after word).

**Welcome:** This is about getting to know one another and connecting with one another. It usually includes chat about the past week (reflection), an “ice-breaker” question to get people talking and it may include prayer or ministry to one another. It may also include a meal, snacks, coffee, etc. It often functions as the meeting before the meeting.

**Worship:** When we worship, we turn our focus to God, celebrating what He has done and is doing. Some prefer to have their worship time before the word segment and end their meeting with prayer. Whatever works best for your HOME Church is what you should do. The worship time releases presence, prayer and power in the midst of the group in a way that builds up each other's faith and spiritually bonds everyone together. The worship time in a HOME Church can include singing, praying, viewing art, reading poetry, dance, etc.

**Word:** We want to connect Scripture to everyday life and help one another put it into practice. Reflection on what was learned last week is important. In most HOME Churches, the subject is the teaching of the Sunday sermon. There are multiple ways to engage with the Word. One is to use questions specifically addressing what the preacher said on the weekends. Another way is to use the Bible study guide that goes deeper into the Scripture preached on. Both of these resources are/will be available on the GATEWAY Church website.

**Witness:** We want to focus on those outside the HOME Church. As you close the gathering each week, you can share vision for multiplication. This is vital to keep the group looking outward through mission, ministry and multiplication. Serving opportunities, planning fun outings and reaching out to those who don't know Jesus as a group promotes a balanced discipleship pattern.

## **WHAT DOES HOME CHURCH LOOK LIKE?**

- Some of you will meet on Sundays to watch Livestream together and respond to the sermon (using the sermon questions or the Bible study guide).
- Some will meet during the week to process the sermon or to discuss the Bible Study.
- Some of you will meet over Zoom rather than in person.
- Some of you might do a hybrid of these options.
- Some of you will find new ways to engage in Welcome, Worship, Word and Witness together.