



Best Practices for Gather

What are some best practices to make sure my group is successful? Larger churches and synagogues alike have grown small groups to unite and connect their communities. Here are some things they've learned:

- Meet once a month and make your best effort to be there every time. Think about it as an exercise for your soul, heart and mind. Regular working out builds those muscles and makes you feel good!
- Create a covenant. Have you ever been in a meeting where everyone has a different agenda, or unwritten rules they want you to live by but haven't shared? Yikes. Together you and your group can decide what values and principles you commit to uphold when you are together. We will provide a sample covenant (Brit in hebrew) for your group to adapt.
- Rotate roles. It takes a village, people! Decide who will host, send out reminders about meetings and ask the opening question each time you meet. Rotate these roles to share leadership.
- Decide all your dates at the beginning. This is a busy world we live in, get this out of the way so you can focus on what really matters. Create clarity from the beginning so that people can plan in advance.
- Start every gathering with an opening question and a review of the brit. Don't worry, Rabbi G-P will send sample opening questions monthly or help you create bespoke conversation starters based on your group's goals and desires.
- Create a welcoming environment. Sometimes this means food and music, other times it means quiet so you can have a private, uninterrupted conversation. Everybody in the group can own this one together, but as the Gather leader, be ready to show your pack how it is done.
- Prepare and send reminders. Decide in advance what you want your gathering to look like, what you will talk about and what questions you will ask. Send a reminder 3-5 days in advance with the date, location, time and any materials you want participants to look at in advance.
- Bring Supplies, if necessary. Refreshments option but encouraged :)
- Be curious and ask open questions that don't require expertise.

