

# Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of New Evangelization

San Gabriel Pastoral Region  
Discipleship21

*Updated: June 26, 2020*



## What is Gospel Hangout?

Gospel Hangout is an online Gospel Reflection process that connects the Gospel with life through prayer and small-group conversation using Zoom small breakout rooms.

## What Gospel Hangout is not...

Gospel Hangout is not a scripture study, rather it uses a Gospel Reflection process (Lectio Divina for groups) that invites people to reflect on how Jesus in the Gospels is intersecting with their life at this moment.

[Click here to view Gospel Reflection Video with Bishop David O'Connell](#)

## Why use Gospel Hangout at my parish?

While the Church has engaged the faithful through livestream Masses at this time, there is very little interaction between members of the community. Gospel Hangout provides the chance to connect parishioners with Jesus in the Gospels and to reconnect with others.

Consider using this process not just for existing small groups but inviting anyone from the parish to join. This may be the deeper connection to Jesus and the Gospel that some people are desiring. For those looking to connect with the Church outside of Sunday Mass, this may be the opportunity and invitation for which they have been waiting.

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## hangout

### Overview of a Gospel Hangout Evening

- **15 min – Hospitality Hangout:** Invite people to bring their own food and beverage so the setting is causal like sitting down and having drinks and appetizers together. This is a time to welcome new people and catch up with those you have not seen for a while.

### Gospel Reflection Process

- **Step 1: Prayer to the Holy Spirit**  
*The Gospels came from early Christian communities and were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel comes alive when it is reflected upon in community under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.*
- **Step 2: Choose an echo**
  - Proclaim the Gospel
  - Share the echo – the word or phrase that catches your attention or speaks to your heart.  
*We invite you to be open and allow the echo to speak directly to your heart bubbling up as a word or phrase that resonates with you.*
- **Step 3: Share a story or experience**
  - Proclaim the Gospel
  - In small groups – share a story or experience that you recall as a result of hearing this Gospel.  
*How is this Gospel connecting and touching your life? This is not a time to teach or preach about the Gospel but instead to see how it is touching your life and then share this story with the small group.*
- **Step 4: To go deeper - Question based on the Gospel (optional)**
  - In a small group – share on a question based on the Gospel
  - Coming Soon: Questions for each Gospel –
    - see <https://lacatholics.org/gospel-reflections/>
- **Step 5: Share a promise**
  - What promise do you want to make to the Lord? Is there something you would like to do differently this next week as a result of reflecting on this Gospel?
  - (Optional) – Depending on the group gathered, invite them to share their promise in the form of a prayer.  
*Reflecting on the Gospel should lead to practical ways to put it into practice in our everyday lives. We are transformed not just by reading the Gospel but by putting it into action.*

## What you need to get started:

- A team of 3-4 people to host and facilitate these weekly small groups. Archdiocese of Los Angeles - Office of New Evangelization and the San Gabriel Pastoral Region – Discipleship21 are providing training sessions for teams. (See <http://discipleship21.org/gospelhangout> to sign up for online training).
- A paid Basic Zoom Account. This will allow for a time longer than 40 minutes and the paid account has better security protocols per ADLA Applied Technology.
- At least one desktop or laptop to manage the breakout room feature on Zoom.
- An invitation to parishioners on how to join the Gospel Hangout. (See promo templates to help you with these efforts <http://discipleship21.org/gospelhangout>).

## Items for week(s) before your Gospel Hangout:

- Schedule Zoom Session(s)

[Click here to watch Zoom training video on how to schedule a meeting.](#)

- Decide if you will be asking people to Register (remember try to keep it simple)
- Will you use the same code each week or different code each week? (suggest same code for a least a few weeks in a row)
- Zoom settings:
  - We suggest using the waiting room as a standard practice to setting up your meeting. (Please check the waiting room box when setting up the meeting).
  - We suggest that you **do not** allow participants to join before the meeting host. (Do not check this box when setting up the meeting).
  - We also suggest that you **do not** use a personal code but instead allow zoom to assign a code for this session.
  - Make sure that in the settings you have turned on the **breakout rooms**. Go to settings and scroll down to the “In Meeting (Advanced)” section to find the breakout room option.
  - Also be sure to turn on the **co-host** setting. This option will be under the “In-Meeting Basic” section.
- Create promo/invitation for people to join Gospel Hangout. We have provided graphics, branding images and templates that you may customize for your parish community.

[Click here to access promo templates and images.](#)

- Send out promo/invitation through e-mail, parish website, social media and online parish bulletin. Use all the avenues available for your parish community.
- Think of using a platform like Flocknote – to allow Text-To-Join and setting up scheduled e-mails in advance to send reminders and zoom links.
- Practice with your team using the Zoom and Breakout rooms.

[Click here to watch training video on Zoom breakout rooms.](#)

Suggest that you have at least 2 people from your team managing the Gathering.

- Moderator: They have the co-host capabilities for the Zoom. They are responsible for:
  - Overall Facilitation of gathering – using script
  - Welcome of people and guide 15 min hospitality time
  - It is good to remind people that what we share together – stays between us. Depending on the group you may also possibly need to share some guidelines for small groups.
  - Ask for 1 person to lead prayer to Holy Spirit. This can be pre-arranged or you can ask the group gathered. If you pre-arrange volunteers or ask the large group depends on the group you have gathered and how comfortable they may or may not be with praying out loud. If you want to open to the larger group - please be sure and have a person ready to volunteer if no one raises their hand.
  - Ask for 2 people to proclaim the Gospel. Just like prayer to Holy Spirit, this can be pre-arranged, or you can ask the group gathered. If you pre-arrange volunteers or ask the large group depends on the group you have gathered and how comfortable they may or may not be with proclaiming out loud. If you want to open to the larger group - please be sure and have a person ready to volunteer if no one raises their hand.
  - Ask helper to open breakout groups
  - Join a breakout group
  - Once back in large group – facilitate short large group sharing
  - Invitation to join next week & closing prayer.

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- Helper: This team person has hosting capabilities for Zoom. They are responsible for:
  - Letting people in from the waiting room before and during the gathering.
  - Setup of small breakout rooms at the beginning of the gathering.
    - NOTE: to be able to setup breakout rooms the person must be the **host** of the Zoom session.
    - While users on smart phones can participate in breakout rooms, breakout rooms cannot be managed on them. Therefore, the Helper should be on a laptop/desktop.
  - Remain in main meeting room during the breakout small groups, answer questions and help out with any small room issues.
  - Send notes alerting people 2 minutes until breakout groups end.
  - End breakout groups and call back to large group.
  - End Zoom Meeting
  -

## **Preparations to begin Gospel Hangout Gathering (15-30 min before)**

- Open PDF for Gospel Reading for the Upcoming Sunday. Have this open on your desktop so you can share with participants when the Gospel is proclaimed: <https://lacatholics.org/gospel-reflections/>
- Start Zoom Session (suggest at least 15 min before start time. Make sure you video and sound are working).
- If working as a team – setup team members as co-host to help you manage waiting room, chat box and breakout rooms.

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### Suggested Agenda

### Script for weekly Gospel Hangout

(example: Gathering from 7-8pm)

**Format:** Weekly Gathering - One Hour or less in length.

6:30pm - 6:45pm: Start Zoom Session

- A person who has access to the accounts – starts the session.
  - Go to <https://zoom.us/>
  - Sign into your account.
  - Click meeting tab on left hand side bar.
  - Find your gathering on the list and hit start button on the right
  - Remember to share your microphone and video.
- Allow team members to join your session but keep others in the waiting room.
- Setup team members with particular zoom capabilities:
  - Moderator: Co-Host on Zoom
  - Helper: Host on Zoom
  - To setup these team members: Open Participant tab at bottom of screen. When panel to the right opens – click on their name, click on more, give them host or co-host access.
- Helper opens PDF for Gospel Reading for the Upcoming Sunday. Have this open on your desktop so you can share with participants when the Gospel is proclaimed: <https://lacatholics.org/gospel-reflections/>

6:55pm: As a team pray for all those who will be joining the Gospel Hangout gathering.

6:58pm: Helper: Opening waiting room and allow participants to join the gathering. Add link for Gospel Reflections in the chat box.

7:00pm: Hospitality Hangout - The first 15 min is set aside for “Hospitality.” Invite people to bring their own food and beverage so the setting is causal like sitting down and having drinks and appetizers together.

- Moderator: Create a welcome environment by greeting people and saying hello. Make sure and try to meet people, learn their names, introduce yourself. If you see a new person and most the people know each other – be sure and welcome them and help them feel like they belong.
- Once most of the people have joined the session – the Helper starts creating small breakout rooms with approx. 3 people per group. Groups are setup but not yet opened.

7:00pm: Helper: Opens waiting room and allows participants to join. Helper puts link to Gospel Reflection PDF in chat box.

- ❖ **Moderator begins Hospitality Hangout:** Welcome to Gospel Hangout – we are so happy that you are joining us. Hi my name is... We will begin our reflection with the Gospel at 7:15pm but right now we have time to get to know one another. (you can add things like) I hope you have your hospitality drinks & snacks! (then proceed to facilitate the conversation).
- ❖ **Invite people to share screen.** We invite you to share your screen if possible. If you can't find how to share your screen or to enable your sound – hover your mouse to the bottom of the screen and you will see the option for sound and video on the bottom left side of your screen.

7:10pm: Helper creates Breakout Rooms – Do not open rooms at this time.

7:15pm: Moderator transitions to Gospel Reflection.

- ❖ In our Gospel Hangout, we will be using the Chat window and we will also be going into small breakout rooms. 1<sup>st</sup> – to find the chat box – hover your mouse towards the bottom of your screen – and click on chat. That should open a window to the right where you can type in your word or phrase when we cue you. If possible it would be great if you can share your video which will make it easier to see and share with each other during the small group time.  
In the chat box we have provided a link for a PDF for the readings. (*Coming Soon: If using the optional question – the question will be included in this weekly pdf*).
- ❖ **Would anyone like to volunteer to lead us in a prayer to the Holy Spirit?** *The Gospels came from early Christian communities and were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel comes alive when it is reflected upon in community under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.*

- ❖ We need two volunteers to proclaim the Upcoming Sunday Gospel? If you could please proclaim the reading from the screen once we share the screen with everyone. (Note: even if they have their Bible – please have them proclaim from the screen so the proclamation both times is using the same version of the bible).
- ❖ If you have your Bible or Bible App with you – our Gospel for this Upcoming Sunday is... (name the book of the Bible and the verse – Ex: John 3:16-18) Don't worry if you do not have your Bible we will also project the readings on the screen.
- ❖ As we set off on this journey, our Gospel Hangout is a chance for each of us to share and reflect on the upcoming Sunday Gospel. We invite you to share your own reflections and how this Gospel is speaking directly to your life today. It is a challenge but the Gospel Reflection Process is more fruitful if you can share how the Gospel connects to your story or experiences rather than simply analyzing the scriptures. Please also remember that what is shared here stays here. It is important that we can trust one another as we share these reflections. Please also be mindful that everyone has a chance to share.
- ❖ We will begin with
  - A prayer to the Holy Spirit – so we may invite the Spirit to lead our hearts into this Gospel
  - We will proclaim the Gospel – looking for the Echo – a word or phrase that catches our attention
  - We will proclaim the Gospel for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time – and we will share a story or experiences that comes to mind because of our reflection on this Gospel. We will be sharing this in Small Groups.
  - (Optional): We will be sharing on a question from the Gospel. This question can be found on the PDF that was linked in the chat box.



- Lastly, we invite you to discern what this Gospel is calling you to this week and make a promise to the Lord to work on this invitation.
- ❖ Let's take a quiet moment and center ourselves inviting the Holy Spirit to be our guide on this journey. (15-30 sec of silence)
- ❖ I would now like to invite \_\_\_\_\_ to lead us in a prayer to the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ **Helper: Open PDF with Gospel Reading – share screen to share Gospel Reading.**
- ❖ As we read this Gospel for the 1<sup>st</sup> time – you are looking for the echo that surfaces during the reading of this Gospel. The echo is a word or phrase that speaks to your heart. After a brief moment of silence we invite you to type to the word or phrase in the Chat box.
- ❖ I now invite \_\_\_\_\_ to proclaim the Gospel.
- ❖ Please type your word or phrase in the chat box.
- ❖ **With a peaceful and calm voice, read the words or phrases from the chat box.**
- ❖ We will read the Gospel for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time.
  - What story or experience surfaces from reflecting on this Gospel? How is this Gospel touching your life?
  - (Optional Question) – After you have shared your story or experience, we also invite you to share on the question from the Gospel that can be found on the PDF.

- The Gospel always invites us and sends us out. What might this Gospel be inviting you to do differently this week? (Optional depending if you think the group can handle this: After each person has shared, invite the group to make a short prayer of promise to our Lord for this week).
  - After a short time of silence – we will send you to your breakout rooms for 15 min (**allow more time if sharing on the optional question**). We will give you a 2 min heads up before the rooms close.
- ❖ I now invite \_\_\_\_\_ to proclaim the Gospel for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time.
- ❖ **Brief Silence**
- ❖ **Helper:** Opens up breakout rooms (3 people per group). Helper remains in main meeting room to answer questions and admit people from waiting room. Total time in breakout rooms: 15 min – longer if using optional question.
- ❖ **Helper:** Send message to breakout rooms 2-3 min before you close the room. If asking people to pray a short prayer of promise – type the message: now it is time to begin your short prayer of promise. The meetings rooms will close in 3 min.
- ❖ 2 min after sending note – close rooms. The 60 sec count down begins. Rooms will close in 1 min.
- ❖ **Moderator:** Welcome back from your small groups. Do we have 1 or 2 people who would like to share what Jesus was saying to you through this Gospel? **If no volunteers – think of sharing your own reflection.**

7:55pm – Start wrapping up the gathering

- ❖ Try to make sure that you close the meeting before 1 hour time frame to keep with your promise for a 1 hour gathering. If people seem to want to continue to talk & share – take a brief pause and let them know you need to end this meeting but welcome them to stay and continue to share.
- ❖ Thank you for joining us this week’s gathering of Gospel Hangout. We invite you to join us next (**mention the day of the week and time**). You are welcome to bring a friend!
- ❖ Moderator leads spontaneous closing prayer. Meeting can end or if you gave the option for people to continue to visit, stay until people are ready to leave.



Questions? Please contact:

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