

HOW DO WE GATHER OUR E-TEAMS EFFECTIVELY?

A GUIDE FOR MEETING WELL



WHAT SHOULD OUR FIRST E-TEAM MEETING LOOK LIKE?

In your first few meetings, it's important to prioritize getting to know leaders in the room. You can begin by having everyone answer this question:

What is encouraging/hopeful to you in the landscape of evangelism in our city?

Dedicating one or two E-Team meetings to this conversation can build a culture of hope and faith on the E-Team and cultivate a collective hunger for more stories.

There will be leaders who are 'doers' and want to whiteboard strategic plans during the first meeting. However, we recommend postponing these conversations until future meetings.

This also introduces the principle that the E-Team is meant to listen to local church leaders to learn how to best support them, rather than suggesting programs prematurely.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD OUR E-TEAMS GATHER?

We recommend a **monthly meeting rhythm**. Because this group is a non-mandatory, volunteer-based group, we do not want to overwhelm the calendars of leaders and participants. Monthly meetings build a sustainable momentum, surface recent updates in E-Team members' lives, and create space for meaningful progress to occur on collaborative projects.

Additional meetings in between monthly meetings are encouraged, and — in some seasons — necessary to accomplish E-Team objectives (events, projects, etc.). You may choose to begin meeting less frequently as your team matures.

HOW LONG SHOULD OUR MEETINGS BE?

We recommend **60-90 minutes**. This allows for general catching up amongst the group and for productive and clear discussion around agenda items. We recommend gathering around a meal which facilitates relationship building time.

WE'VE HAD OUR FIRST MEETING — NOW WHAT?

Your first 3-5 meetings are a crucial time to decide your direction, lay your foundation, and choose your path forward. We recommend spending ample time:

- Encouraging one another
- Praying together
- Showing up in other's spaces between meetings
- Discussing how your team could ensure evangelism is a central part of your city's Gospel Movement:
 - Learn the current state of evangelism in their city's local churches
 - Inspire and equip local churches in effective evangelism
 - Mobilize local churches to evangelize
- Establishing onramps for those who are excited to engage in that mission, as well as offramps for those who may not be interested in moving forward with the team

Taking time to work through these steps sets a solid foundation for your team's future. They offer ways to build friendships with the goal of evangelistic collaboration. Each of you cares about the work of evangelism — how can you first care for the people doing evangelism? **This is a great place to start.**



WE HAVE A CORE GROUP OF LEADERS — NOW WHAT?

There are many directions you can take as a team. Here are a few common ones, as well as some ideas for pursuing them. This is by no means an exhaustive list, so don't be afraid to get creative.

If you're doing a Listening Tour:

- Visit www.citygospelmovements.org/listeningtour for more information and resources.

If you're forming a cohort:

- Consider these stories for inspiration and encouragement:
 - **Jennifer Chan (New York City)** – developed a pathway for church planters to form an E-Team in their congregation.
 - **Organic Outreach** – committed to helping denominations, ministries, and local churches infuse the DNA of their ministries and congregations with a passion for natural evangelism.

If you'd like to host a local evangelism training:

- Consider the local evangelism trainings that already take place. What would it look like to strengthen an existing effort?
- LPA has leaders we can recommend as a trusted outside voice to provide training. Leaders include:

For lead pastors and ministry leaders:

- Shaila Visser and Craig Springer (Alpha)
- Kevin Harney (Organic Outreach)
- Ed Stetzer (Billy Graham Center)
- Carrie Headington (The Good News Initiative)
- Eugene Cho (for those reaching immigrant communities)
- Andrew Palau (Luis Palau Association)

For everyday believers:

- Mark Mittelberg
- Becky Pippert

For youth pastors and teens/young adults::

- Steiger International
- Greg Stier
- Nick Hall

- Email eteams@palau.org for more details.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

The LPA team desires to support leaders who want to see evangelism flourish across their city. If you would like to talk with an LPA coach about this process, please reach out to eteam@palau.org.

FOR MORE RESOURCES:

- *How to Create the Perfect Meeting Agenda* by Harvard Business Review (*article*)
- *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters* by Priya Parker (*book*)
- *Death By Meeting: A Leadership Fable . . . About Solving the Most Painful Problem in Business* by Patrick Lencioni (*article*)