

Children's, Youth and Family Ministry Next Steps Audit Toolkit



theresourcecupboard.co.uk

www.facebook.com/theresourcecupboard

At The Resources Cupboard, we journey with the local church to make young disciples. Our research-based model is guided by five principles:

- listening to what God says about the place of children in His Kingdom, through the Bible and in our walk with Him.
- knowing and loving our community first.
- Sharing the good news of Jesus with all children and young people, through the whole church.
- journeying with children from birth to adulthood.
- engaging with children and young people in four spheres of life: home, gathered church, school and community and culture.



This simple Next Steps Audit Toolkit has been designed, trialled and developed, using this model to help the local church identify what they're already doing well, what they may wish to change and what their next steps may be.

Before identifying our next steps, we should begin by taking time to consider where it is we are headed, asking the question; 'what is our vision for children, young people and families in this place?' If you have never done this, press pause and take some time as a team to explore this question, discerning God's vision for your ministry. If this is something you feel confident you have addressed already, have your vision statement visible to you as you work through this toolkit; it will help to keep your focus.

When you are ready, this toolkit begins by mapping out the activities within the four spheres: home, gathered church, school and community and culture, this is then developed through two alternative charts; the first is age-phase based and the second makes use of the five circles of commitment, based on Rick Warren's work in *The Purpose Driven Church*. This comes with a health warning! Remember, we are in the business of making disciples, not making core members! The core is not the aim of the game, but rather, the five circles are used a helpful tool to consider how we help those at all stages of a discipleship journey.



theresourcescupboard.co.uk

www.facebook.com/theresourcescupboard

As you begin this audit, it is important that together as a team, you have a shared understanding of the terminology. Feel free to adapt our terms below, as appropriate to your context:

Four Spheres:

- Home: The primary place of nurture for children and young people, the most significant influence on a child's life.
- Gathered Church: The family of God together in one place; where we can be known, nurtured in faith and find a place to serve.
- School: The significant communities where most children and young people are educated and grow together, where Christians may serve as teachers, support staff or governors, or may offer explicit Christian teaching in assemblies and RE curriculum.
- Community and Culture: All the other spaces children and young people inhabit, from mid-week clubs, to life on their street, online gaming to music and video content.

Age banding

These have been determined based on the UK school system, they could be further defined by key stages, depending upon your context,

Five Circles of Engagement

- Community: The geographical context you work within. You may meet these people at various events but have no significant connection to them.
- Crowd: The group of people who take some interest in the events you put on. They may have signed up to a database and attend occasional events.
- Congregation: Those who attend events, services or activities fairly regularly.
- Committed: Those you can count on to be at regular events, services or activities. May contribute some time and/or financial support.
- Core: The small group of leaders or helpers who lead and support the delivery of events, services or activities.



How to use the Next Steps Audit Toolkit

01

Gather your team together, this is a collaborative exercise! Before you begin, take some time to look at God's word, and to pray together. Remind yourselves of the vision God has given you for children, young people and families and have this visible as you continue the discussion.

02

Using the 'what are we already doing?' sheet, plot all the different ways your church are already working with children, young people and families, across the four spheres. You can include both organised activities and the ways individuals work in these spheres.

It may be helpful to think about the different roles individuals play; from school governor to foster parent.

03

When you're ready, choose which, 'who do these activities serve' chart you wish to use (you could use both and cross reference to give you a fuller picture) and plot out the different events, groups and activities. Some of these may cross over different circles or spheres. There is no right or wrong answer, the important thing is that as a team, you have consensus over this.

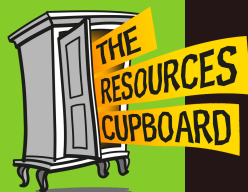
We enlarged the sheet to A3 then used post-it notes to plot our activities. It helped to be able to move them around.

04

Take some time as a team to look at the discussion questions and pray together about your next steps. Take as much time as you need over this it doesn't have to be done in one session!

05

Agree a plan of action to enable you to take this further. If you would like further help or advice as to what your next steps may be, please get in touch with us.



theresourcecupboard.co.uk

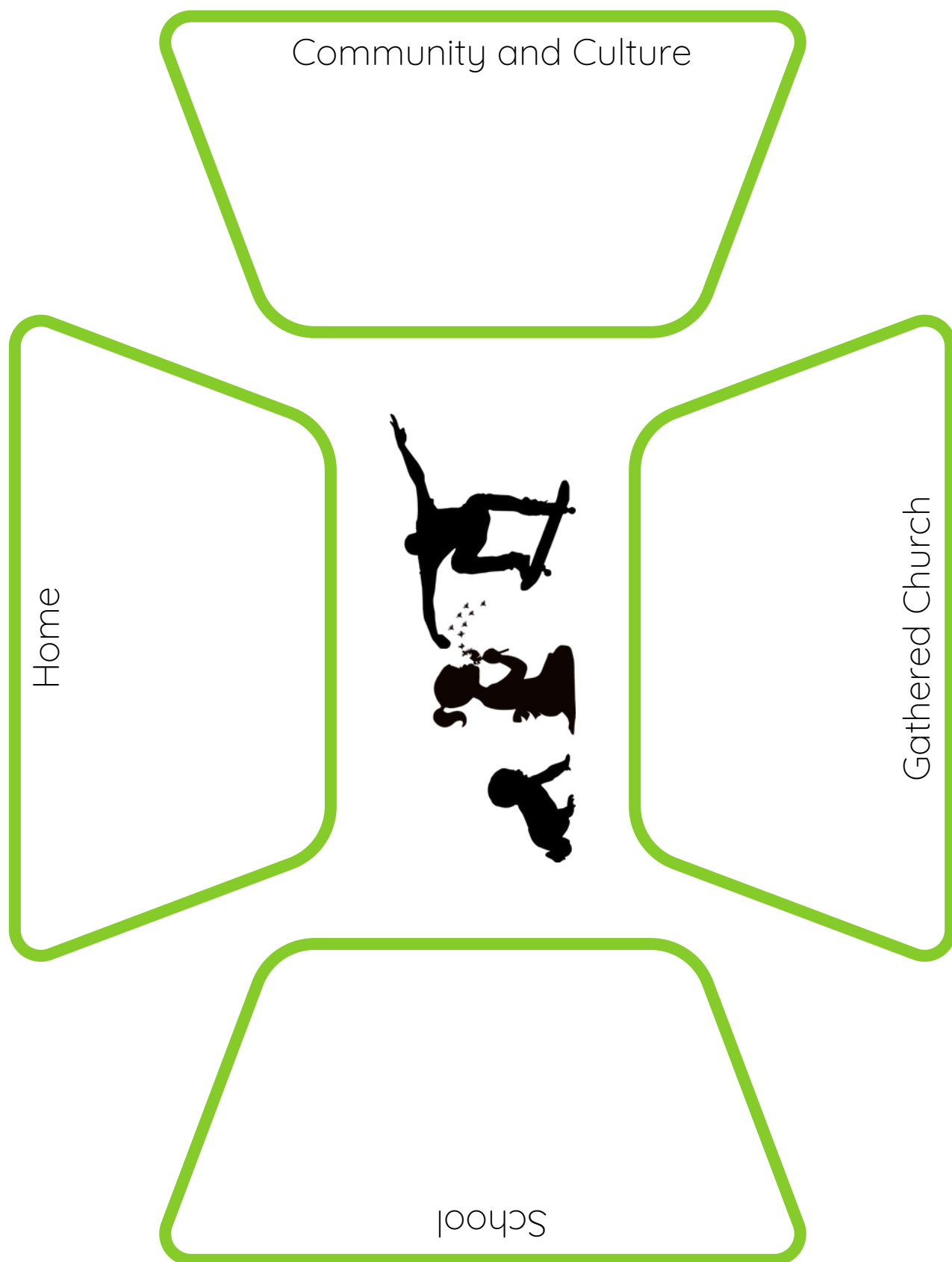
www.facebook.com/theresourcecupboard

What are we already doing?



theresourcecupboard.co.uk

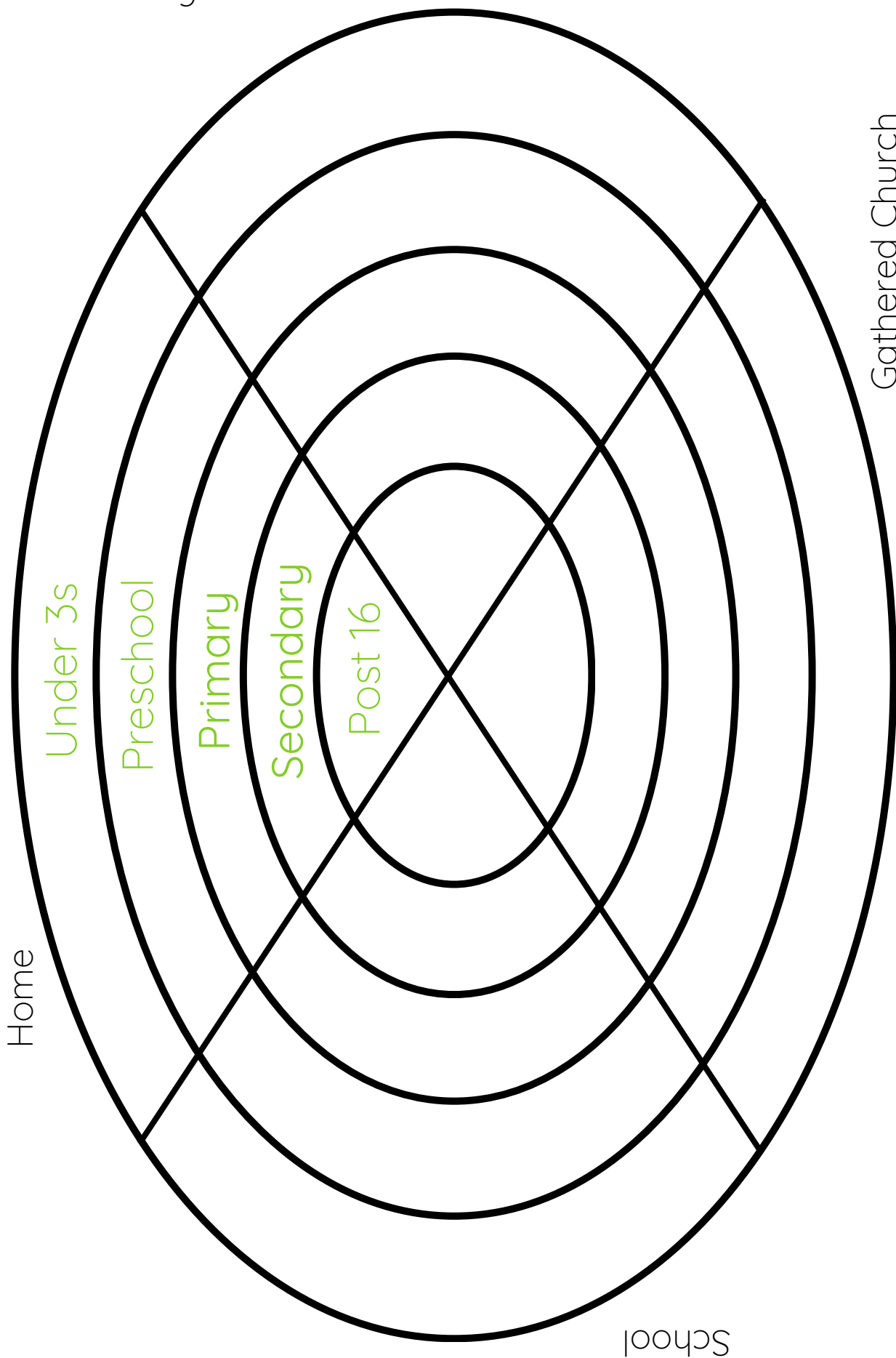
www.facebook.com/theresourcecupboard





Who do these activities serve?

Community and Culture

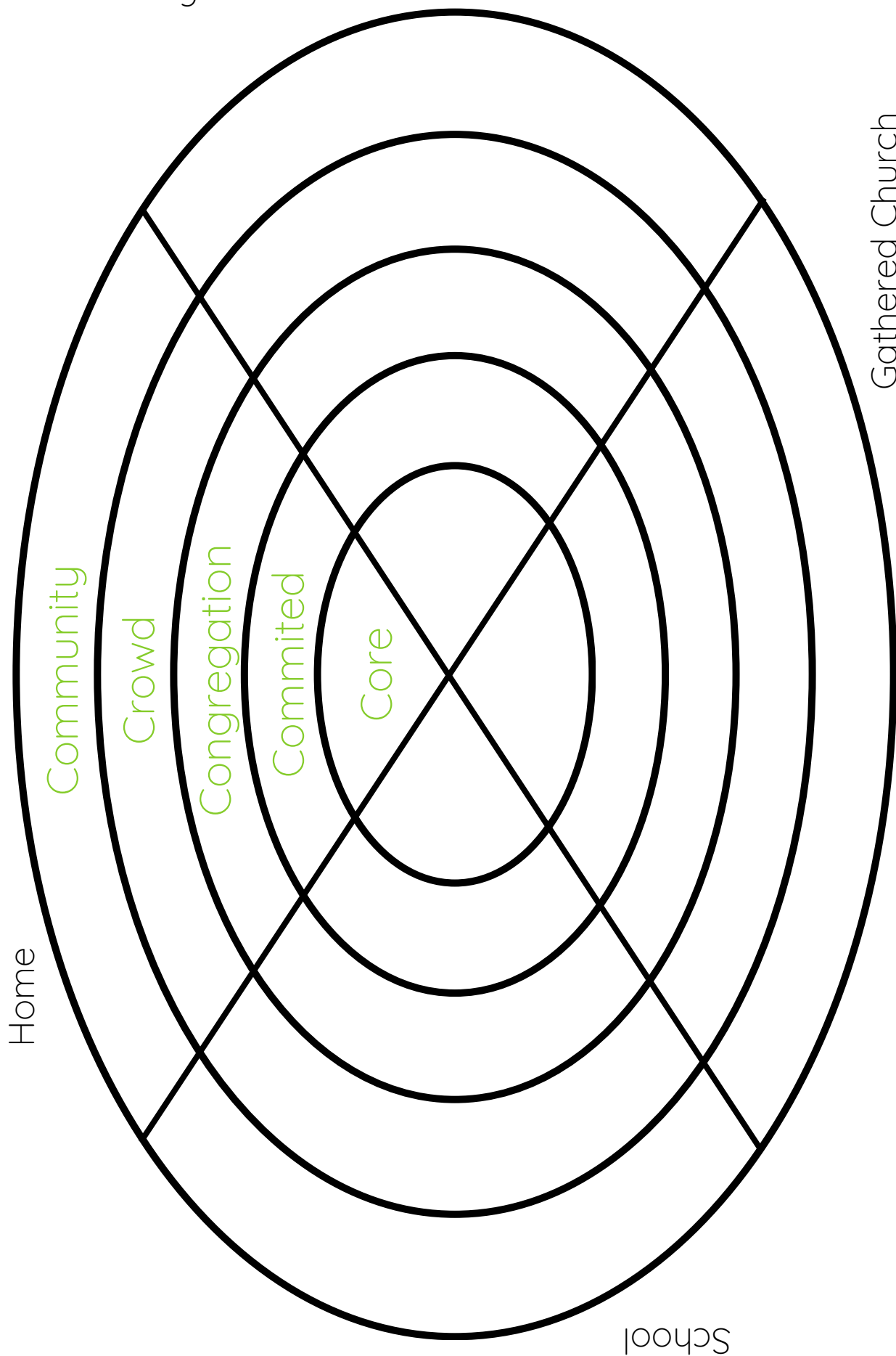


theresourcecupboard.co.uk

www.facebook.com/theresourcecupboard

Who do these activities serve?

Community and Culture



theresourcecupboard.co.uk

www.facebook.com/theresourcecupboard



What do you notice?
What surprises you?

Take another look at the vision God has given your church, and as you consider the following questions, try to answer them within the context of this vision.



Where are our strongest areas?
Does this play out in our real life experiences?
How can we build on those?



Where are the obvious gaps?
How do we feel the impact of those?
Is it right to fill those spaces now? How?



Are there any areas we're overdelivering?
How can we release some of those?



Are there any activities we are doing that need to change?
Do we feel confident to make those changes?



What next steps feel natural for us to take?
What support will we need to take those?



Where do we have gaps that take us out of our comfort zone?
What support will we need to address some of these?



What other perspectives or voices should we listen to?
How do children, young people and families perceive or experience the activities we offer?
How can we find out?
How does this help to inform our next steps?

