

Evangelistic Home Groups

I became a Believer in Jesus in 1978. There was a movement of Christianity during this time period, (from the early 1970s through the early 1980s and beyond), known as the Charismatic Renewal Movement. One of the main characteristics of the movement was on a focus to return to the principles of the Early Church as expressed in the book of Acts. During the earlier years of the movement the Churches involved focused mainly on supernatural signs and wonders and proclaiming Jesus was still in the Miracle business. Most Churches had mainly gatherings of their entire congregations to encourage the Believers to experience God in this way. However, in the later 1970s an emphasis began by which Christians began to meet in smaller groups, mainly homes.

It took a number of years for this to grow, but today most evangelical churches have adopted some form of Small Group meeting formats to their church structure.

So in this Study we will explore the reasons why meeting in a small group format is so vital for effective Church development. And we will give some guidelines on how to make a Home Group, (or Home Church), function in a Biblical and successful way!

1. Hebrews 10:25 What does this verse tell us not to do in regards to the assembling of one another, especially as we see the Day of our Lord's returning drawing near?

Answer: Not _____ our own assembling together

For various reasons we don't really like opening up our lives to each other, especially to people that we don't know very well. But we all really need each other. We are all individually unique and have different gifts and talents. We were not made to be by ourselves.

2. Proverbs 27:17 What is the name of the process called here when men or women begin to allow their lives to be affected and changed for the better through real, genuine relationships?

Answer: _____

Jesus showed the importance of homes and families by how much He visited homes. And He did many miracles while at homes! Let's look at some examples.

3. Matthew 8:14-15 What happened to Peter's sick Mother-in-law when Jesus visited her home and what did she immediately do afterwards?

Answer: Jesus _____ her of a fever and she arose and _____

4. Matthew 8:16 That same evening people came from all over to the same house and what miraculous things did Jesus do?

Answer: Jesus cast out _____ and _____ all who were ill

5. Mark 2:1-12 This is the story of Jesus healing a Paralytic who was lowered down through a roof by his friends. According to verse one, where was Jesus at when they brought the Paralytic to Him for healing?

Answer: ____

6. Luke 10:38-42 Jesus taught a principle here in this story when he visited Mary and Martha's home. Rather than using the home only to do busy things, what did Jesus say was really the more important thing in verse 39 that Mary was doing?

Answer: Mary was _____ to the Lord's Word, seated at His feet

We will see later in the book of Acts that the early followers of Jesus had learned an important lesson from this story.

7. Luke 19:5 In Luke 19 we find the story of Zaccheus. Jesus made what seemed an improbable statement to a well-known and despised Tax Collector. This statement was the main reason for Zaccheus's conversion. What was it?

Answer: Hurry and come down, for today I must _____

8. Luke 10:6-7 Jesus was sending out His disciples into cities to preach and heal the sick. He told them to stay at houses where they were welcomed. What did He tell them were the kind of wages that they were worthy of receiving?

Answer: _____ and _____

9. Luke 10:2 Here we see a plea from Jesus right before He sent the 70 disciples into homes to proclaim His Kingdom. What key word in this verse connects the Disciples to the harvest?

Answer: Therefore _____ the Lord of the harvest

Beseech means to earnestly pray and cry out for laborers to be sent out into the harvest!

In a later Study we will look at the different aspects of how the Church is compared to a human body.

10. Ephesians 4:16 It says here for the Body of Christ to function properly and build itself up in love, what must happen to each individual supplying joint or individual part?

Answer: It must be _____

So the best way for the Body of Christ to properly function is in a home or small group setting. In Acts 2:42-47 we can find that the earliest converts immediately knew to meet in homes.

11. Acts 2:42 What four things were these brand new Believers continually devoting themselves to?

Answer: _____, _____, _____, _____

12. Acts 2:47 What was one more thing that they were doing regularly in the homes?

Answer: _____

13. Acts 2: 44-45 These very first Believers that met in homes quickly developed such a strong bond of trust that what did they begin to do with their property and possessions?

Answer: They began _____ and _____ their property and possessions with all, as anyone might have need

Wow, what an amazing depth of trust, love and commitment that these new Christians were showing!

Let's take a look at the fruit that resulted from these early Church Disciples having meetings in homes.

14. Acts 2:43 What are the two results of the home meetings mentioned in this verse?

Answer: And everyone kept feeling a _____; and many _____ and _____ were taking place through the Apostles

15. Acts 2:47 What was the reaction from all the people?

Answer: _____ with all the people

16. Acts 2:47 And what amazing feat was God doing in their midst every single day?

Answer: And the Lord was _____ to their number day by day those who were being saved

17. Acts 5:42 As was a common occurrence what were the two places that you saw the Apostles and the disciples gathering at to preach and teach about Jesus?

Answer: in the _____; from _____

18. 1 Corinthians 16:19 A husband and wife named Aquila and Prisca were shown appreciation here. Where was their Church located?

Answer: In their _____

The Apostles honor in several other places the Churches that were meeting in homes. The strong bonds that formed in the first Church in Acts 2 became the model throughout the entire New Testament.

Here are some additional scriptures by which you may begin your essay on how meaningful and powerful the homes were in early Christian life.

Philemon 1:2; Romans 16:3-5; 2 Timothy 4:19; Acts 10:1-48; Acts 12:3-17

Answers:

1. Forsaking
2. Iron sharpens iron
3. Healed; waited on Him
4. Evil spirits; healed
5. At home
6. Listening
7. Stay at your house
8. Eating and drinking
9. Beseech
10. Working properly
11. The Apostles teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer
12. Praising God
13. Selling; sharing
14. Sense of awe; wonders and signs
15. Having favor
16. Adding
17. Temple; house to house
18. House