



THE HOUSE CHURCH MOVEMENT

A COMMUNITY OF JESUS FOLLOWERS ON MISSION TO MAKE AND MULTIPLY DISCIPLES

GATHER • PRAYER & WORSHIP • WORD • MISSION • MULTIPLICATION

WHY HOUSE CHURCH?

As disciples of Jesus we have been entrusted with the Great Commission to go and make disciples who make disciples (Matt 28). This commission isn't just for the paid professionals, but the everyday individuals who have said "yes" to the call of following Christ.

In this cultural moment, we believe a House Church provides the best environment to equip, empower and release disciples to make and multiply disciples in the places God has planted them; to shift from a community of "Come and See" to "Go and Be," from an audience to an army. Also, with increasingly fewer people being drawn to enter the front doors of a church building for a weekend service, a House Church provides a much needed side door entrance for people who wouldn't set foot into a traditional church setting but would enter someone's home.

This isn't just about getting bigger and adding more numbers to our attendance; it is about multiplying the number of people entering the kingdom and experiencing the fullness of Jesus. Every disciple who makes a disciple is another significant step closer towards our vision of seeing Salem a city at peace with God.

WHAT IS A HOUSE CHURCH?

"A House Church is a community of Jesus followers, on mission to make and multiply disciples."

When you look at the early church and the birth of the original house church movement, we see 5 elements that were central to the identity and practice of these house churches:

Gather

Prayer & Worship

Word

Mission

Multiplication

We believe each one is essential for the health and growth of the house church movement.

GATHER

“AND ALL BELIEVERS MET TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE AND SHARED EVERYTHING THEY HAD...” - ACTS 2:44

In the beginning of Acts we see the birth of the church and with that, the emergence of house churches. These gatherings involved disciples of Jesus meeting in homes, eating together and sharing what they had with one another.

AS YOU LEAD YOUR HOUSE CHURCH, WHAT DO YOUR GATHERINGS INVOLVE?

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- Where are you going to meet?
- What are you going to eat?
- How are you going to share with one another?
- How are you going to use your gifts to contribute to the community?
- How often will you come to Salem Alliance to gather with the larger church?

PRACTICAL IDEAS:

- Start your gathering with an icebreaker*
- Set up a meal rotation for different people to bring food
- Ask your group to take a spiritual gifts test and discuss the results
- Organize social gatherings outside of your house church meeting time*
- Set up a group text/email where people can share their practical needs with the house church
- Invite others to share the responsibility of leading the house church
- Visit Salem Alliance every 4-6 weeks

*See HC Resources

PRAYER & WORSHIP

“THEY ALL MET TOGETHER AND WERE CONSTANTLY UNITED IN PRAYER...” - ACTS 1:14

Consistent prayer and worship preceded the house church movement and continued to propel it forward.

AS YOU LEAD YOUR HOUSE CHURCH, HOW IS GOD INVITING YOU TO ENGAGE IN CONSISTENT PRAYER & WORSHIP?

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- When are you going to pray together?
- Who/what are you going to pray for?
- What different ways can you engage in prayer and worship?

PRACTICAL IDEAS:

- Engage in the BLESS 5 Prayer*
- Go on a prayer walk in the place that God has planted you*
- Spend time in listening prayer as a group
- Pray through the Lord's prayer together
- Anoint the sick with oil and pray for their healing (James 5:14-16)
- Set up a group text/email and share weekly prayer requests
- Pray for CMA international workers

"ALL BELIEVERS DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES' TEACHING..." - ACTS 2:42

These house church gatherings also included listening to the teaching of the apostles, reading the words of Scripture, and taking communion together.

AS YOU LEAD YOUR HOUSE CHURCH, WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO THE WORD?

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- Do you plan on watching the sermon together or separately?
- Will you use the sermon discussion questions or Bible study guide or a mix of both?
- How often will you take communion?
- Are there other biblical resources that would benefit your house church?

PRACTICAL IDEAS:

- Review "Leading Discussion"*
- Use the sermon discussion questions or Bible study guide to discuss the sermon series
- Incorporate communion as part of your meal times together
- If your house church has questions about faith or are new to the Bible, talk to your coach about using the Alpha and Beta materials
- Recap the previous week's discussion to see how people have applied what they have learned

MISSION

“AND EACH DAY THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR FELLOWSHIP THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED.” - ACTS 2:47

The outcome of these house church gatherings is that people were coming to know Jesus.

AS YOU LEAD YOUR HOUSE CHURCH, WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO ENGAGE IN A COMPELLING WAY WITH THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS?

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- In what contexts could you spend time getting to know people who don't go to church?
- Who are the people in your relational networks that you desire to know Jesus?
- What missional rhythms will allow you to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel to those around you in the ordinariness of life?
- Is there anyone you know who is spiritually curious that you could invite to your house church?

PRACTICAL IDEAS:

- Identify the people in your life who don't know Jesus through using the Relationship Mapping exercise*
- Engage in the BLESS rhythms and check-in each week to hear stories*
- Use the 4H questions to develop meaningful relationships with your neighbors, co-workers, classmates, etc*
- Use the conversation starters provided in the Bible study guide to spark spiritual conversations
- Invite non-Christian friends to a monthly social gathering with your house church
- Visit the “Help my city” webpage to see what opportunities there are to serve as a house church
- Support a CMA international worker

MULTIPLICATION

“SO THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT ALL JUDEA AND GALILEE AND SAMARIA HAD PEACE... AND WALKING IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD AND IN THE COMFORT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, IT MULTIPLIED.” - ACTS 9:31 (ESV)

Throughout the rest of Acts we see the house church movement multiply, as disciples are making more disciples and sent out to start their own house churches.

AS YOU LEAD YOUR HOUSE CHURCH, WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR MULTIPLICATION?

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- Whom could you apprentice to lead another house church in the future?
- What responsibilities can you give your apprentice to equip them as a future leader?
- When will you evaluate whether it's time to multiply?

PRACTICAL IDEAS:

- Share from the beginning of your house church that multiplication is an essential part of disciple-making
- Encourage each person that they have the potential to lead their own house church in the future
- Pray about whom you think God may be calling to be an apprentice and initiate a conversation
- Use the Leadership Square as a guide to apprenticeship*
- Allow apprentices opportunities to lead the group in a variety of ways
- Set dates to evaluate whether your house church is ready to multiply

HC COACHING FAQ'S

WHY DO WE ASSIGN YOU A COACH AS A HC LEADER?

Whether you are a veteran leader or are brand new to this, we believe that leading a house church is both a joy and a challenge. As you start out on this journey of making and multiplying disciples, there are going to be times when you need assistance along the way. Whether it supports processing group dynamics or tools to equip you in facilitating spiritual formation or being challenged to think about the next steps for your house church - your coach is there to help.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A COACH?

The 3 primary roles of a coach are:

- **To support**
 - Coaches are committed to listening to, praying with, and encouraging you as you lead
- **To equip**
 - Coaches will provide you with a variety of tools and resources that will help develop your skills as a HC leader and facilitate spiritual formation in others
- **To challenge**
 - Coaches will ask intentional questions that help you think beyond the present, push you out of your comfort zone and keep you focused on making disciples who make disciples

HOW OFTEN WILL I MEET WITH MY COACH?

Your coach will meet with you once a quarter. If you are interested in meeting on a more frequent basis, make sure to let your coach know in your initial coaching session.

WHAT WILL MY MEETINGS WITH MY COACH LOOK LIKE?

For your initial coaching session, your coach will ask you questions to learn more about your story, help you discern who you feel called to disciple, as well as talk through some of the practical details of leading a HC.

In follow-up sessions, coaches will check in with you to hear how you are doing, gather stories of how God is at work in your HC, provide any relevant information to equip you as disciple-makers, and challenge you as you continue to lead your HC.

Individual coaching vs group coaching:

There are 2 types of coaching sessions for a HC leader to participate in - individual or group. We encourage all of our HC leaders to consider joining a group coaching session as we believe that there is tremendous value in connecting, dialoguing, and learning from other HC leaders. For some that may not be possible due to scheduling conflicts, in which case an individual coaching session is also an option.

"A DEEP SENSE OF AWE CAME OVER THEM ALL, AND THE APOSTLES PERFORMED MANY MIRACULOUS SIGNS AND WONDERS. AND ALL THE BELIEVERS MET TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE AND SHARED EVERYTHING THEY HAD. THEY SOLD THEIR PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS AND SHARED THE MONEY WITH THOSE IN NEED. THEY WORSHIPED TOGETHER AT THE TEMPLE EACH DAY, MET IN HOMES FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER, AND SHARED THEIR MEALS WITH GREAT JOY AND GENEROSITY ALL THE WHILE PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING THE GOODWILL OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND EACH DAY THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR FELLOWSHIP THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED."

ACTS 2:44-48