



Disciple Making Training Session 15

HOME CHURCH PART 1

The Story

Home Church is an intimate gathering of believers meeting in homes across the city to worship, pray, read scripture, take communion and develop meaningfully authentic relationships as each person continues to pursue Jesus!

The purpose of the Home Church is to mobilize and equip the body of believers to experience family, accountability, confess sin and experience spiritual formation and maturity as they learn to do life together in Christ. Home Churches are centered around the name, presence, beauty and truth of Jesus Christ.

- What's the GOAL from God's perspective?
 - God's Glory and having a Priesthood (Exodus 19:6, 1 Peter 2:8-9, Revelation 5:8-10)
- What's the GOAL for the Body of Christ?
 - A mature body (Ephesians 4)
- What's the GOAL for me as the individual
 - Individual fruitfulness (John 15)

The Successes

Zach, Liz and Christopher, what were some of the successes of Home Church that stuck out to you? Share one or two testimonies.

How did you see Home Church impact our community in a positive way?

What were your favorite parts of Home Church?

Home Church in the Old Testament

Genesis 12 God came to Abraham right at home. He spoke to him while he was at his father's house. God wants to come to your house. He wants to speak to you right in your home. After leaving his father's house Abraham had to learn how to encounter God wherever he pitched his tent along the journey to where God was calling him.

Genesis 12:7-8 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. 8 And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent *with* Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

(The expectation was that the stranger would even come into agreement with the invitation of refraining from leaven. What would it be like for us to show our neighbors of a different faith backgrounds, cultures etc. would be brought into the understanding of God's ways because we introduce them to Him in our homes). The first passover took place in every household.

Exodus 12:3,7 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of *his* father, a lamb for a household. 7 And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

The expectation for God's people, for God's nation, was for the word and commandments of God to be shared and taught in the home! This was the key to their well being, fruitfulness, multiplication, and prosperity in the promise land was founded on this.

(READ OUT LOUD TOGETHER)

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Prophet Elisha benefits from home church. Home church should provide REST AND SABBATH, A PLACE FOR REFLECTION AND STUDY, A PLACE OF REVELATION AND FRESH SIGHT

2 Kings 4:8-10

Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. 9 And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this *is* a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly. 10 Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there."

Home Church in the New Testament

Home Church is how Jesus introduces us to discipleship!

John 1:38-39 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?"³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day.

(Is your house filled with the fragrance of oil?)

John 12:1-3 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

John 13-17 Upper Room Discourse

John 13- Jesus washes the disciples feet (Table fellowship)

John 14- Jesus reveals that He is the way, the truth and the light, no one comes to the Father but Him (6). That when we see Him we see the Father (9). Jesus promises the Holy Spirit (15-18), He promises that those that love Him and keep His commandments can expect for the He and the Father to come and make their home in them (23).

John 15- The invitation to abide in Jesus the vine as His branches (1-8).

John 16- Jesus teaches the disciples what the work of the Holy Spirit will be (5-15).

John 17- Jesus prays His High Priestly prayer that we would be one in Him, with one another, as He is one with the Father (20-26)

Miracles in the house!

Matthew 8:5-13 (The centurion's servant was healed at his home as He believed Jesus. Note that Jesus' desire was to come to Him at his house).

Matthew 8:14-15 (Jesus heals Peter's mother in-law of a fever in his home)

Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus is teaching and preaching the word in a house and four faithful friends bring one who is paralyzed and Jesus heals him)

Mark 5:36-43 (Jesus heals Jairus' 12 year old daughter in their home)

Mark 7:24-30 (Jesus delivers the Phoenician woman's daughter of a demon while visiting someone's house)

The road to Emmaus- The disciples eyes are opened after Jesus sits down and breaks bread with them)

Luke 24:30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper and table fellowship before going to the cross.

Matthew 26:26-30 26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

The early church met in homes!

(READ OUT LOUD TOGETHER) Acts 2:42,46-47 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added [q]to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 10:34-48 Peter preaches to Cornelius' household and they are filled with the Holy Spirit

Acts 12:5-16 Peter is freed from prison and goes to the house of Mary who had been hosting a prayer meeting for Peter.

Jesus writes in His letters to the church that He desires to dine with us.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Discussion Time

- Read passages (2 old testament scriptures and 2 new testament scriptures)
- Discuss the practicality and importance of God encountering us in homes from your perspective.
- Share testimonies of ways God has encountered you in your home or in the home of other believers.
- Share benefits or hopes of being in Home Churches.
- Share previous or perceived costs that come with being a part of Home Churches.