

AGLOW@HOME



WHAT IS AGLOW@HOME?

Aglow@home is a new type of affiliated Aglow group for international groups only with the primary focus on in-home meetings that reach out to the neighborhood and community. This new group model was originally created by and tested in Aglow Germany, with great results. In today's world, relationships are more important than ever, and Aglow@home was created for such a time as this. Perhaps it is just right for YOU!

Aglow@home focuses on relationships. The primary audience for this group are your friends, neighbors and community. Connection and relationship – two things the world is crying out for – is our goal and what we seek to cultivate in the host home. We share stories of Christ and what He has done, how He is answering prayers, and what walking with Jesus looks like personally.

Aglow@home meetings are smaller, have a more intimate, and “at home” feel. There is a host, but there is not a “main speaker.” There can be worship, but there is not a full worship team. Aglow@home is simple. It is doable.

This is Aglow evangelism in a new format. **Rather than expecting people to come to us**, we invite and welcome people into our homes, we tell them about Jesus, and share His love with them.

WHY AGLOW@HOME?

You may ask yourself, why introduce a new type of Aglow group in my town or community?

Our society has become more fast-paced than ever. With every technological advance we make, it seems more demands and expectations are put on us. As a result, society longs for REST. “One more meeting” and “one more event” is not what people seek. However, what we seek are activities that will FEED our soul, and activities that are LIFE GIVING. Aglow@home seeks to provide these things.

Aglow@home, in some ways, brings us back to our roots where Aglow began in someone's living room. Today gathering in a home is an important way to meet the challenges of a fast-paced world.

The purpose of meeting in homes is to give a comfortable, relaxed place to gather people and share what the Lord is doing in our lives. It is a **place to slow down**, to focus on others, grow relationships and give opportunity to the Holy Spirit.

Aglow@home is practical as there is **no need to rent a meeting hall** or banquet room. There is no need to search for speakers and look for well-known names in your community to lead an event. In your Aglow@home meeting, there is just the need for an open home where people will feel welcome. Your set up routine includes providing a comfortable place to seat your guests. Your speaker is the entire group and a **place for meaningful life discussions where all participate.**

WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF AGLOW@HOME?

SHARING

Aglow@home should be a safe place to share and build connections. The blessing of Aglow@home in comparison to larger meetings is that people can participate more than being just spectators. This is a place you can be *heard* and be part of a caring, Christ-centered community.

PRAYER

A safe place to *share* leads to a safe place to *pray*. Prayer is a pillar of Aglow, and it is the foundation of Aglow@home – in forming groups, hosting groups, and in caring for members. It is a focus of every Aglow@home meeting, because we know that the heart of these meetings are to connect with the One who loves us most, the Savior of our souls.

GROWTH AND DISCIPLESHIP

Aglow@home seeks to build relationships with others and share what Jesus means to them. Evangelism is also a pillar in Aglow. Our heart is that the groups would be reaching the lost and the unchurched in their neighborhood. It is a welcome occasion to tell others about Jesus, to walk with those who are new to faith in Jesus, and to do life with all who are Jesus followers.

FAITH

Jesus said, “*Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.*” John 14:12 NASB What better place than Aglow@home to see God bring salvations? Physical healings? Emotional healings? Miracles?

HOSPITALITY

Aglow@home is the place to let your hospitality gift shine! This does not mean you have to be an amazing decorator or a cooking star. This just means you can create a safe, clean, welcome environment that others will feel at home in! We suggest you provide a simple snack and/or beverage for your meetings – Coffee and biscuits, tea and cookies, or something similar. You don’t need to make a feast or spend a lot of money, but providing a snack and beverage will help guests feel more....at home.

ENCOUNTERING GOD

Worship has a place in your Aglow@home meeting. As the word says, *Worship opens the doors to God’s goodness* (Psalm 34 MSG). Spending time in worship will bring God’s presence to your meeting. So as you form your Aglow@home agenda, it is important to include worship as part of it.

MULTIPLICATION

Aglow@home groups are designed to grow, multiply and are aimed at all people: women, men, couples and singles. All generations are represented and we encourage encounters and exchanges of people from different generations and ethnic backgrounds. The leaders responsible for forming the group determine the target audience of each group.

Part of the goal of Aglow@home is to start groups that will raise up leaders who launch their own Aglow@home group. While not all groups will look like this, here is a sample of this goal:

- Your Aglow@home group should begin with a Leader and a Co-leader.
- The size of the group can range from 5 – 20 people, depending on the size of your living room.
- Determine the theme or focus of your group (i.e.: Young mothers, Single fathers, My neighbors, Young Professionals, Refugees, Mixed Ages, Mentorship, etc.). The theme could be personal development with GameChangers/LifeChangers.
- Determine the goal length of your group. We suggest 1 year.
- Clearly communicate to your group the time commitment and schedule, so they know this is a limited opportunity. (We find that once people know they are committing to something that is a specific timeframe, they are keener to join.)

TIMEFRAME

- We recommend having a monthly meeting for a period of maximum one year to start.
- As the end of your group timeframe approaches (i.e. 1 year) start to speak with your group regarding what they sense about the meetings. Would they like to continue meeting? If yes, discuss what the focus should be in the coming 9-12 months.
- As the one-year mark is met, the Co-leader should strongly consider branching off to start a new group, with a new focus and finding new members or with some of the original group that would like to join. With the home meeting format, each group should be kept small enough to meet comfortably in the Leader's home. He/she will then become the Leader of the new group and should then seek a Co-leader for this new group. Then, the cycle begins again.
- The Leader of the original group can hopefully continue leading, and can change their group focus if desired. They should also gain a new Co-leader. Or perhaps, they would like someone else to lead, and they themselves can take a turn as Co-Leader.
- In this way, we can see groups grow and multiply!
- You may be asking - - does a group HAVE to end after one year? No, it certainly does not! However, we hope you will see the benefit to groups splitting and growing, and welcome the opportunity should it come.

AGLOW@HOME LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

- It is important that Leaders keep Aglow's vision and purpose always before them as they make plans for the Aglow@home group.
- To promote the lives and growth of people in your Aglow@home group by bringing them to Jesus in ways they can understand. Get to know their desires and needs in order to serve them well.
- To organize prayer and preparation for meetings with your Co-leader and any other members of your group.
- Be ready to open your house or apartment to people whom God shows you.

- If you are married, your spouse should be in agreement with your commitment to Aglow and the opening of your home.
- It is important that as a Leader you are a part of a Christian church, congregation or community and attend services on a regular basis. The connection to a local church provides a stable foundation for your personal spiritual growth.
- As a Leader, you have many responsibilities as well as full use of your talents. It is important that your role as an Aglow leader be a priority as it will require your focus and time.
- Begin the group meeting with worship in order to make a place for God's presence to come. If spiritual gifts manifest themselves during your meetings (e.g., prophetic words), be prepared to bring teaching as to the purpose of these spiritual gifts in such a way that even non-Christians understand what these mean.
- Bring new ideas into your joint work in order to arouse interest and enthusiasm for your members and guests.
- Encourage your Co-leader in their talents and ministry gifts. Give them room to try things out and support them in it. This will train them in starting an Aglow@home group.
- Ask your Co-leader regularly for feedback. In addition, if you have given them a task, give some feedback as well. In this way, you will learn from each other and grow together.
- As an Aglow Leader, you are a talent scout who is always on the lookout for potential new leaders. In this way, you are promoting and growing your new Aglow@home group.
- Leaders are encouraged to commit and plan to attend Aglow National, Regional and/or Global Conferences whenever possible. By attending, Leaders will receive training, connect with other like-minded leaders and hear firsthand what is happening in Aglow in your nation and around the world.
- The Aglow Global Prayer Targets are sent monthly to Aglow around the world. Plan to bring this to your meetings in order to expand the group's vision for prayer.
- Plan for your group to join regular Zoom prayer calls if the National Board overseeing your nation schedules them. This is a place to pray for your nation as well as individual groups.
- Actively stay in contact with the Aglow National Board for your nation, especially when you have questions, suggestions, or to share ideas. The National Board will be very interested in how you are doing and what is happening with your group.
- Membership in Aglow is Global Partnership. It is important that all Leaders become Global Partners and promote this within their Aglow@home groups. It means being a part of Aglow's ministry to people of all ages, races, and cultures. Because partnership is a sign of commitment, a helpful criteria for finding leadership, and a tangible way of supporting the ministry and linking Aglow individuals across the world, partnership should be offered in every nation except where legally or culturally prohibited. The National Leadership determines the amount for GP over each nation. See the Local Handbook for more information or contact the Aglow National Leadership over your group.
- Be a good example of leadership: Transparency, character, honesty, modesty and friendliness should guide you in dealing with your members and guests. As they learn from you, they can go on to use these leadership qualities when they begin their own Aglow@home group.

AGLOW@HOME LEADER'S ROLE

- Aglow Leaders recognize that their personal identity is in Jesus. That the Kingdom of Heaven is here and we view all things and circumstances through the lens of Heaven.
- Aglow Leaders have a great expectation – because they know who they are and Whose they are.
- Aglow Leaders ask God for opportunities to take their city, region or country for Him.
- We have a promise and provision for everything we do in the Kingdom of God.
- The main purpose of leadership is to advance those you lead. Lead by example and share your life with the people in your group and testify of what God is doing in your life.
- Everything is based on relationships because that is the heart of God. Aglow@home groups will consolidate and grow by appreciating, respecting and encouraging one another. Leaders view each one in your group as precious and loved by God.

AGLOW@HOME CO-LEADER'S ROLE

As an Aglow Co-leader, you are to come alongside and support the Leader in everything she/he plans and brings. Be fully by their side and continue to develop things together that God has put on their heart.

This is a time of training for you. Take it as a chance to grow and develop. Even if you think you could never be a leader, God has possibilities that are far beyond what you could imagine. Do not limit yourself.

CONTENT OF MEETINGS

- Open discussion on topics
- Testimonies
- Discipleship course
- GameChangers/LifeChangers
- Dinner Party (occasionally)
- Book Study
- Etc.

WAYS TO INVITE AND CONNECT

Jesus gives us a clear mandate to go to the people, a “go culture”. Today many Christians have a “come culture”. We encourage people to come to us and we will be there for them. As you **go** with personal invitation to your Aglow@home group people will be drawn to come.

You may have a specific target group of women or men you want to form the group. You can spread the news in an applicable way for your desired audience. It may be for students, refugees, young parents, business people, or neighbors. Find ways to connect where the people are.

Here are some practical ways to invite and connect:

- Invitation Cards – Make welcoming invite cards
- Flyers – “What is Aglow” and about your group
- Website for your group
- Social Media page and event invitations
- Email List
- Word of mouth – encourage group members to invite others

As the Leaders create an inviting and comfortable place of fellowship, people will be excited for the group and will feel happy to commit to being a part. Many people longing for fellowship will connect and share about the group with others.

FINANCES

- With virtually no overhead expenses for a meeting room or speakers costs, you and the Aglow@home group will not have need for a bank account. After your group becomes established, if you would like to set out a bowl for donations to help pay for the coffee, tea or snacks, that is acceptable.
- Every six months take an offering for the National Board of your nation to help support Aglow in your nation.

AFFILIATION PROCESS

The affiliation process for Aglow@home has been simplified to help your group become established quickly and without the stress of excessive paperwork. Because of the one-year timeframe option of these groups, it is important to complete the application form as soon as your National Leader has approved a group. Following are two options for affiliating your Aglow@home group.

- ***Option 1:*** The quickest way to apply for affiliation is to use the Aglow Expedited Affiliation form, accessed by the link below.
- A password is required from your National Leader in order access this form found online at: <https://www.aglow.org/resources/expedited-affiliations-international-groups>
- The forms are also available in Spanish and French.
- ***Option 2:*** You may also apply using the Aglow@home affiliation form located on the following page of these guidelines. The completed form may be mailed or emailed as an attachment to intl.affiliations@aglow.org.

In most nations, the National Leader will receive a welcome letter for the new Aglow@home group. However, there will be no Charter sent.

AGLOW@ HOME AFFILIATION/LEADERSHIP FORM

Aglow@home Affiliation/Leadership Form
 Change of Leader Form

The Aglow@home Group of _____
(Name of city/village/nation)

requests affiliation with Aglow International. Dated this _____ of _____
(day) (month) (year)

Each leader who has signed below agrees to these statements:

- I have accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior.
- I agree with [Aglow's belief statement](#) and [Aglow's vision and mission statements](#). I will seek to fulfill them in my community. (See Part 1, Section 1 of the Handbook)
- I attend church regularly.
- If I have ever taken part in any occult activities, I have renounced such teachings and activities and have asked God to forgive me.

Leader	Please answer the questions and sign:
Name _____	Are you filled with the Spirit with evidence of
Address _____	speaking in tongues?
City _____	Yes _____ No _____
Nation _____	Do you agree with the points stated above?
Phone _____	Yes _____ No _____
Email _____	
Denomination _____	Signature _____

Co-Leader	
Name _____	Are you filled with the Spirit with evidence of
Address _____	speaking in tongues?
City _____	Yes _____ No _____
Nation _____	Do you agree with the points stated above?
Phone _____	Yes _____ No _____
Email _____	
Denomination _____	Signature _____

Describe the focus of the Aglow@home Group you are starting: (See suggestions in these guidelines.)

What is your goal? (What do you hope to accomplish?)

Please return this form to the Aglow leadership for your nation:

Name

Address

City State/Province Nation

Or to:

Global Field Office – International
Aglow International
P.O. Box 1749
Edmonds, WA 98020-1749, USA
Email: intl.affiliations@aglow.org