

HOW TO START A HOME CHURCH OR SMALL GROUP, A GREAT IDEA!

STEP 1: PRAY AND DECIDE

TAKE SOME QUIET TIME TO PRAY AND THINK ABOUT STARTING A HOME CHURCH. DECIDE WHY YOU WANT TO DO IT AND WHAT YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE.

STEP 2: INVITE PEOPLE

ASK FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO SHARE YOUR BELIEFS IF THEY'D LIKE TO JOIN YOUR HOME CHURCH. YOU NEED A GROUP OF PEOPLE TO GET STARTED.

STEP 3: PLAN MEETINGS

DECIDE WHEN AND WHERE YOU'LL MEET. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A COMFORTABLE SPACE AND ANY EQUIPMENT YOU MIGHT NEED.

STEP 4: MAKE IT MEANINGFUL

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO DURING YOUR MEETINGS. SING SONGS, PRAY, READ FROM THE BIBLE, AND TALK ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU.

STEP 5: CONNECT WITH OTHER

ENCOURAGE YOUR GROUP TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER AND REACH OUT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT WANT TO JOIN.

STEP 6: SEE WHAT WORKS

AFTER A WHILE, TAKE A LOOK AT HOW THINGS ARE GOING. ARE PEOPLE ENJOYING IT? IS IT HELPING THEM GROW SPIRITUALLY?

STEP 7: KEEP LEARNING

KEEP FINDING NEW WAYS TO LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER. MAYBE STUDY THE BIBLE TOGETHER OR TRY NEW ACTIVITIES.

STEP 8: HAVE FUN!

MOST IMPORTANTLY, ENJOY YOUR TIME TOGETHER. BUILDING A HOME CHURCH IS ABOUT GROWING SPIRITUALLY AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS. SO, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE FUN ALONG THE WAY!

HOW TO INCORPORATE KIDS

WHEN IT COMES TO YOUNG KIDS IN A HOME CHURCH SETTING, HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS:

STEP 1: CREATE A KID-FRIENDLY SPACE

DESIGNATE A CORNER OR AREA OF YOUR HOME CHURCH SPACE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN. FILL IT WITH AGE-APPROPRIATE TOYS, BOOKS, AND ACTIVITIES TO KEEP THEM ENGAGED.

STEP 2: PROVIDE SUPERVISION

ASSIGN RESPONSIBLE ADULTS OR OLDER CHILDREN TO SUPERVISE THE YOUNG KIDS DURING THE HOME CHURCH MEETINGS. THIS ENSURES THEIR SAFETY AND ALLOWS PARENTS TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES. YOU CAN EITHER HAVE A YOUNG ADULT WATCH THEM AND EACH COUPLE PICK IN \$5 EACH WEEK TO PAY THEM OR YOU CAN HAVE ONE OF THE ATTENDEES VOLUNTEER EACH WEEK HOPEFULLY ONLY ONCE A MONTH.

STEP 3: INCORPORATE SIMPLE ACTIVITIES

INCLUDE BRIEF, INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES TAILORED TO YOUNG CHILDREN DURING THE HOME CHURCH GATHERINGS. THIS COULD INVOLVE SINGING SIMPLE SONGS, TELLING BIBLE STORIES USING PUPPETS OR VISUALS, OR ENGAGING IN AGE-APPROPRIATE CRAFTS OR COLORING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE LESSON.

STEP 4: OFFER CHILD-FRIENDLY LESSONS

ADAPT THE TEACHING MATERIALS TO SUIT THE COMPREHENSION LEVEL OF YOUNG CHILDREN. USE STORYTELLING, VISUAL AIDS, AND INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS TO CONVEY BIBLICAL TRUTHS IN A WAY THAT IS ENGAGING AND UNDERSTANDABLE FOR KIDS.

STEP 5: ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

ENCOURAGE YOUNG CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORSHIP AND TEACHING PORTIONS OF THE HOME CHURCH MEETING IN WAYS THAT ARE COMFORTABLE FOR THEM. THIS COULD INVOLVE SINGING ALONG TO WORSHIP SONGS, REPEATING SIMPLE PRAYERS, OR SHARING THEIR THOUGHTS DURING DISCUSSION TIME.

STEP 6: PROVIDE SNACKS AND BREAKS

OFFER SNACKS AND PERIODIC BREAKS TO KEEP YOUNG CHILDREN ENERGIZED AND COMFORTABLE DURING THE HOME CHURCH GATHERING. THIS ALSO PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIALIZATION AND BONDING AMONG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

STEP 7: FOSTER A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

CREATE A WARM AND WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE WHERE YOUNG CHILDREN FEEL INCLUDED AND VALUED AS PART OF THE HOME CHURCH COMMUNITY. ENCOURAGE OLDER MEMBERS TO INTERACT WITH AND MENTOR THE YOUNGER ONES, FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING FOR ALL AGES.

STEP 8: BE FLEXIBLE

RECOGNIZE THAT YOUNG CHILDREN MAY HAVE SHORTER ATTENTION SPANS AND DIFFERENT NEEDS COMPARED TO ADULTS. BE FLEXIBLE IN YOUR EXPECTATIONS AND SCHEDULE, ALLOWING FOR BREAKS OR ADJUSTMENTS AS NEEDED TO ACCOMMODATE THE YOUNGEST MEMBERS OF YOUR HOME CHURCH FAMILY.

INCORPORATING THESE STRATEGIES, YOU CAN CREATE A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT WHERE YOUNG CHILDREN CAN GROW IN THEIR FAITH ALONGSIDE THEIR FAMILIES WITHIN THE HOME CHURCH COMMUNITY.

-HERE'S HOW OUR WEEKLY SMALL GROUP WORKS, YOURS COULD BE SOME VARIATION. WE PICK A DEVOTION OR BIBLE SUBJECT (MARRIAGE, KIDS, ANXIETY, FAITH, ETC.) AND BREAK IT INTO 6-10 SESSIONS. WE EACH HAVE ONE PERSON PROVIDE THE MAIN DISH ALTERNATING EACH WEEK AND THE OTHERS PROVIDE AN ACCOMPANYING SIDE. WE PRAY, EAT AND THEN HAVE OUR BIBLE STUDY AND CLOSE WITH PRAYER.

THIS COULD BE JUST SOMEONE BRINGING COOKIES, CAKE OR A PIE AND SOMEONE BRINGS A DRINK OR COFFEE OR TEA AND YOU ALTERNATE. WE HAVE A GROUP OF NINE COUPLES. YOURS COULD BE AS SMALL AS TWO OR AS LARGE AS YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE.

WHEN IT GETS TOO LARGE, START A NEW GROUP. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

SIMPLE SAMPLE INVITE

HEY [FRIEND'S NAME],

I HOPE THIS MESSAGE FINDS YOU WELL! I WANTED TO REACH OUT TO LET YOU KNOW ABOUT SOMETHING EXCITING MY FAMILY AND I ARE STARTING, AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JOINING US.

WE'RE STARTING A HOME CHURCH, WHERE WE GATHER WITH A SMALL GROUP OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO WORSHIP, LEARN, AND GROW TOGETHER IN OUR FAITH. IT'S A RELAXED AND INTIMATE SETTING WHERE WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW JESUS IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.

WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST GATHERING AT OUR HOME ON [DATE] AT [TIME]. WE'LL HAVE SOME TIME FOR WORSHIP, A SHORT MESSAGE, AND OF COURSE, PLENTY OF GOOD CONVERSATION AND FELLOWSHIP.

THERE'S NO PRESSURE TO COMMIT LONG-TERM; WE SIMPLY WANT TO EXTEND THE INVITATION TO ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING FAITH IN A COZY AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU'RE INTERESTED OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. WE'D BE THRILLED TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!

WARM REGARDS,
[YOUR NAME]

COPY, PASTE AND ENTER NAMES, TIMES AND ADDRESSES! YOU CAN DO IT!