

Using Your Home In The Ministry



Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:46-47 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 to the church daily those who were being saved.

Benefits of being a part of a home group:

1. Fellowship
2. Connect to the rest of the body (net that holds the harvest)
3. Study the word in an intimate atmosphere where you can ask questions
4. It gives opportunity for those who work on Sunday to receive spiritual feeding
5. Makes Disciples (Paul's example in Ephesus)
6. It releases the gifts of our teachers
7. It equips and releases believers to be ministers
8. It takes ministry out of the four walls to where people live
9. It is a practical application of the truth that the church is not a building but His people
10. Breaks churches out of a one man band syndrome

Why pastors have shied away from it:

1. People with their own agenda, doing their own thing, bringing in false doctrines, etc
2. Self imposed leaders causing strife, splits in body
3. False doctrine of Home Church Movement:
 - Attacks authority of local church similar to Korah attacking Moses
 - Hyper spiritual about their home group system while putting down the rest of the body of Christ
 - Preaches against organization of local churches.
 - Attack the use of buildings as a regular means of meeting as a church body.

Why do people shy away from it

- Bad experience or none at all
- Meetings too long
- Selfishness
- They don't like people
- They don't like being inconvenienced.
- Don't want to get involved in the lives of others
- Too busy (California lifestyle)
- Their lifestyle is one of taking, not giving



What kills ministry in the home:

- ✓ Lack of understanding what body ministry is
- ✓ Lack of Biblical hospitality
- ✓ Burn out
- ✓ Lack of organization and follow up
- ✓ Alcohol
- ✓ Bad attitudes - 1 Peter 4:9 *Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.*

Our Plan:

1. Study the Bible chapter by chapter interspersed with topics
2. To have 2 home groups a month (1st & 3rd Wednesday)
3. Why twice a month?
 - a. It is do-able.
 - b. Not too much
 - c. Provides variety
4. It is simple:
 - Read scripture
 - Ask questions
 - Get input from everyone
 - Pray for everyone



Plan of Action:

1. Be a part of a home group ministry
2. Stop waiting for someone to invite you over

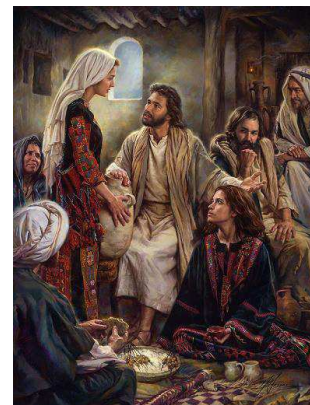
Proverbs 18:24 *A man who has friends must himself be friendly ...*

3. Invite someone over before you leave today
4. Plan a party

You don't like to be inconvenienced?

😊 Welcome To The Ministry! 😊

"An inconvenience is an adventure wrongly considered" ~ Gilbert K. Chesterton



Scriptural Examples of Hospitality:

1. Abraham. Genesis 18:1-8 Then the Lord appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. 2 So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, 3 and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. 4 "Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5 "And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant." They said, "Do as you have said." 6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes." 7 And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it. 8 So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

2. Martha. Luke 10:38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named **Martha welcomed Him into her house**

3. Lydia. Acts 16:14-15 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

Hospitality: To love strangers; generous to guests. It is the special ability that God gives to members of the body of Christ to provide open arms, open house and warm welcome for those in need of friendship, a warm welcome, food and lodging.

Romans 12:10-13 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another... given to hospitality.

Given: Press toward, to follow or press hard after, to pursue with earnestness and diligence in order to obtain

What Jack Hayford taught me:

1. Some people want and need home groups.
2. The minister needs to use his home, especially with those he trains, to exercise hospitality. Hospitality is a part of being a minister and a leader. 1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;