

Starting A Gathering In Your Home: An Early Church Model

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INTRODUCTION

- 1. WHY ARE GATHERINGS IMPORTANT TO THE ONLINE CAMPUS?

LONELINESS IS THE #1 EPIDEMIC IN THE WORLD.

THE ANTIDOTE?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY “CHURCH” IS?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY “CHURCH” IS?

“EKKLESIA” MEANS....

MAP OF 1ST CENTURY BIBLICAL WORLD



WHAT DID NEW TESTAMENT “EKKLESIA” LOOK LIKE?

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” - ACTS 2:42-47

THE 5 PURPOSES OF THE EARLY CHURCH FROM ACTS 1:42-47

Story of Ephesus’ Gathering

1) DISCIPLESHIP

- *“devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching” - Acts 2:42*
- *“Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.” - Acts 18:24-26*

NOTES:

How? CLASS, Small Group Studies, Foundations, DriveTime Devotions, & Daily Hope

2) FELLOWSHIP

- *“the fellowship” – Acts 2:42*
- *“breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts” – Acts 2:46*
- *“And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” On hearing this,*

they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.” - Acts 19:1-8

- *“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and... through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” - Ephesians 4:1-7*

NOTES:

How? Small Group, Small Group Studies, Communion, & Baptism

3) WORSHIP

- *“attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes.” – Acts 2:46*
- *“The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.” - 1 Corinthians 16:9*

HOUSE CHURCHES:

- ✓ Mary’s house church (Acts 12:12)
- ✓ Lydia’s house church (Acts 16:40)
- ✓ Priscilla and Aquila 2nd house church (Romans 16:3-5)
- ✓ Nympha’s house church (Colossians 4:15)
- ✓ Philemon and Apphia’s House Church (Philemon 1:1-2)
- *“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.” - Ephesians 5:1-5*

NOTES:

How? Online Service, Home Gathering, Small Group Studies, & Retreat

4) MINISTRY

- *“And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.” – Acts 2:45*
- *“About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be de- posed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.” - Acts 19:23-27*

NOTES:

How? Serve Online, Serve in Small Group, Serve in Home Gathering, Local PEACE Projects, & Small Group Studies

5) EVANGELISM

- *“And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” – Acts 2:46*
- *“And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.” - Acts 19:7-10*
- *“And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.” - Acts 19:17-20*

NOTES:

How? Online Service, Home Gathering, Small Group Studies, & Retreat

WHAT WOULD YOUR GATHERING LOOK LIKE?

- GATHER _____
- INVITE PEOPLE
- OPEN TO _____

BREAKDOWN OF A GATHERING

- PRE-GATHERING (*SETUP*)
- START OF GATHERING (*WELCOME*)
- END OF GATHERING (*CLOSE WITH NEXT STEPS*)
- POST-GATHERING (*CONVERSATIONS/CLEAN UP*)

15 CHECKLIST ITEMS FOR GATHERING

- ✓ House is clean (*home is picked up, the sink is empty, pillows setup, etc.*)
- ✓ House smells fresh (*light a candle or use oils*)
- ✓ Lighting is not too bright or too dark (*natural light is ideal. Open a door or window*)
- ✓ Have an open space cleared out for people before and after service to talk
- ✓ Coffee and water at a natural access point in the room (*maybe near a free area near the back of the room*)
- ✓ Enough seats for everyone attending
- ✓ All seats are facing the tv with an unobstructed view of the screen
- ✓ The volume of the service loud enough to hear from each seat (*if using a computer then purchase external speakers*)
- ✓ Everyone attending knows where to park
- ✓ Everyone attending knows the location of gathering
- ✓ Verify tv connection is working (*Airplay, Chromecast, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, or HDMI*)
- ✓ If streaming the live service make sure your location has at least 13 Mbps of download speeds or download message before the start of the gathering
- ✓ Before and after service play music (*Spotify: Saddleback Worship - Matchless*)
- ✓ Print copies of notes and explain online access at www.saddleback.com/online
- ✓ Print copies of response cards and complete digitally at www.saddleback.com/online

EXTENDING THE VALUES OF S.A.D.D.L.E.B.A.C.K.

Second chance grace place

All nation congregation

Doable faith

Deliberate pathway to growth

Love in action

Empowered members

Bold faith

Authentic relationships

Creative outreach

Kid & family focused

EXTRAS

- Host classes, small groups, and special events
- Facilitate _____
- Lead people through ABC prayer:
 - Admit you're sinner
 - Believe Jesus died on the cross for your sins
 - Call on Jesus to be the Lord of your life
 - Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, & 10:13
- With staff help, have funerals and weddings

HOW TO GROW YOUR GATHERING

- Take your faith seriously
- Build a core _____
 - Leader
 - Hospitality
 - Logistics
 - Tip: Selecting people from your small group is a great place to find people for your leadership team.

- Tell others
- Create a great experience:
 - Clean Environment
 - Be Organized
 - Well-Marked
 - Safe
 - Fresh
 - Targeted
 - Branded
- Training
 - Read Purpose Driven Church
 - Read the Book of _____
 - Attend/Watch PD.Church Conference
 - Coaching

SUPPORTING YOUR GATHERING

- _____ the gathering
- Help connect new people to the gathering
- Arrange resources to support the gathering
- Offer _____ to help the gathering get healthy

GETTING YOUR GATHERING LAUNCHED

1) START BUILDING YOUR TEAM:

- Find 2 others to join the team
- Pick a date 1-2 months out to launch
- Commit to 6 months of regularly gathering
- Read PDC & book of Acts together
- Focus on building a community not a campus

2) MAKE THESE 7 COMMITMENTS:

- Finish CLASS 101 & get your small group healthy
- Find 2 others for your team & start reading PDC/Acts
- Pick start date 1-2 months away & decide location
- Write down names to invite & start praying
- Commit to continued growth personally
- Regularly communicate with Saddleback (*Attendance*)
- Sign commitment

NEXT STEPS

- _____ from God & others
- Start building your team & learning together
- Arrange resources to support the gathering
- Offer _____ to help the gathering get healthy

Congrats on finishing: Starting A Gathering In Your Home

Questions? Contact jayk@saddleback.com