

GETTING BACK TO THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH (OUTLINE)

ACTS 2 Need is to return to this pattern in the last days, meeting house to house (46), Church was their life Jesus never started a Church but He laid down the principles for its foundation The Holy Spirit birthed the Church, empowering it & guiding it along the way How far have we moved from this

<p>1 PASSION to each other & Lord, 46 sincerely of heart</p>	<p>42 devoted 43 fear God 5:1-11</p>
<p>2 POWER wonders, was norm not added extra</p>	<p>43 signs &</p>
<p>3 PURPOSE common purpose, same goal in unity & agreement</p>	<p>44 46 one mind</p>
<p>4 PERSECUTION result of what God was doing</p>	<p>4-6 as a</p>
<p>5 PRAYER PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER</p>	<p>42 CHURCH</p>
<p>6 PENERATION evangelism</p>	<p>47 41 added daily</p>
<p>7 PRACTICAL property, needs meet by each other money</p>	<p>45 sharing 45 giving more than</p>
<p>8 PARTICUPATE fellowship (koinonia), together, 42/46 break bread together</p>	<p>42 46 meals 47 worship</p>
<p>9 PREACHING</p>	<p>42 teaching</p>

WHY SMALL GROUPS ARE ESSENTIAL IN THE LAST DAYS Some
countries ie China, Iran, Russia, North Korea, Turkey have to meet in house Churches because the Church is either banned or its under State control The only way is to meet in small groups to encourage each other which is dangerous but they take the risk knowing they could be arrested & even killed Let's practice meeting together now before we are in a similar situation in our own countries (believe you me it's not that far away)

DIFFERENT NAMES: Home Group, Fellowship Group, Small Group, Life Group, Cell Group, Home Bible Study, Oikos Groups etc We'll call them Home Churches

BIBILICAL MODEL

10:1-23 Cornelius conversion

Lydia & entire family accepted Christ

lead the jailer to the Lord (network)

Crispus the Jewish synagogue ruler became a Christian.

Acts 20:20 Evangelistic model (Paul)

break bread from house to house

ones

functioning as one

Church

first converts in Achaia

1 Thess 5:12-28 conduct towards each other

13:17,18 obey leaders

Acts

Acts 16:14-21

Acts 16:31-40 Paul/Silas

Acts 18:7,8 entire household

Acts 19:9 1-10 baptism & persecution

Acts 2:46

1 Cor 1:2 called out

1 Cor 12:1-31 members

1 Cor 14:26 gifts functioning in

1 Cor 16:15-18 Stephana household –

Eph 4:11-16 ministries & functioning body

Heb

Most effective Churches have majority Church attending Groups Where needs are met, a place where attendees can develop their ministry, support one another, meet socially

focus for group ie disciple, teach, equip, evangelize, train etc

economic, different needs, maturity level, young marrieds etc

There has to be

Different ages, social

LEADERSHIP is the key to success 1 Tim 3:8-13 Qualifications of a leader

decline in numbers or go to other groups & lose interest if no direction & momentum Leaders need have

vision of Church with vision to grow the group spiritually & numerically

Pastor needs to input into leaders who in turn input into the attendees' Pastoral care can be done

through leaders as long as they are under Church & accountable to Church leadership

Groups can

GROUP DYNAMICS: be relational, be sensitive, everyone's got something to offer, relevant to where group is at, prayer & worship element, warm & welcoming of new folk, goal is to work together for the group's goals, love for one another, be vulnerable, be open & authentic

Respect each other & the challenges each faces, not about who knows it all, allow the quieter ones to develop & controllers to

take a back seat, discipline if any is out of order (not necessary if front of everyone unless it's called for

WORSHIP/TEACHING/UPDATES via utube you can play the latest worship on your TV screen even though

you're not a musician or worship leader This is a great way to get the group focused on God & open

them up to the Holy Spirit You can also use utube to bring specific teaching that enhances your

vision/heart

DANGER OF ISOLATION: what can happen is a group cuts itself from its Mother Church And attendees only go to the group & not Church This is not a substitute unless there is no option as mentioned above

The enemy can use ISOLATE TO DESTROY We are part of the Body therefore we need each other to

function as an effective Church building His Kingdom & extending it for His glory not ours