

**Reading:** Acts 2:37-47

**Topic:** The Growing Importance  
Of Home Groups

**INTRODUCTION:** More and more churches in this day and hour are turning to Home Groups as a means of \_\_\_\_\_ evangelism and discipleship to facilitate church \_\_\_\_\_.

## I. REMEMBERING THE PURPOSE:

### **A. Evangelism:**

1. Home Friendship Groups provide an open \_\_\_\_\_ of opportunity for evangelism in an area or neighborhood where people do not \_\_\_\_\_ the church.
2. People who might be intimidated by an invitation to a \_\_\_\_\_ may be less likely intimidated by an invitation to semi-formal gathering in a \_\_\_\_\_ in their area.
3. When twenty-five or more Home Groups are in session on a given \_\_\_\_\_, it means that there are now twenty-five \_\_\_\_\_ of evangelism opportunity open instead of just \_\_\_\_\_ door at the church.

### **B. Discipleship:**

1. Home Groups are an effective way to help \_\_\_\_\_ new born babes in Christ, connecting them more closely to the Body of Christ and making friends of more mature \_\_\_\_\_ who are grounded.
2. Some new converts have been \_\_\_\_\_ in the crowd as the church grows larger, and if they are not followed up intentionally, they will become discouraged and \_\_\_\_\_ out of sight.
3. When a new person obeys the Gospel at the church, or through a Home Bible Study, our \_\_\_\_\_ now is to encourage them to attend the discipleship \_\_\_\_\_ and to become part of a Home Group.

### **C. Fellowship:**

1. The early church did not have buildings in the beginning so they met often in \_\_\_\_\_ because they were not welcomed in the public places of \_\_\_\_\_ in local communities. Acts 2:46
2. The word "fellowship" in the original Greek means "communion" or "the act of using a thing in common" and the dictionary defines fellowship as "companionship" or "sharing values together."
3. Fellowship is extremely important to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Body of Christ, for once we have been born again, we have become part of a \_\_\_\_\_, and in order to survive we need to remain attached to that body in order to receive strength to survive and in turn to contribute to the \_\_\_\_\_. I Cor. 12:12-14

## II. REINFORCING THE PURPOSE:

### **A. Not Just Fellowship:**

1. It's easy to fall into the rut of just having \_\_\_\_\_ each time we meet with our group, and forget about the evangelism and discipleship aspect of \_\_\_\_\_ in our group.
2. Fellowship is comfortable and easy, but evangelism and discipling requires that we \_\_\_\_\_ out of our comfort \_\_\_\_\_ and make an intentional effort to do more than just fellowship.

### **B. Evangelism & Discipling:**

1. Everyone's lives are busy these days, but if we choose to make an \_\_\_\_\_, we can find someone in our neighborhood, or on our job or at school or a \_\_\_\_\_ that we can invite to our HFG.

2. When someone new does come to the HFG, an intentional effort needs to be made to \_\_\_\_\_ them and make them feel at \_\_\_\_\_ in the meeting.
3. When new converts begin to attend the HFG, they too need to be made to feel a \_\_\_\_\_ of the group and not as an outsider, helping to participate in the meeting.

### III. PLAN OF ACTION:

#### **A. Goal – Total Enrollment:**

1. The ideal goal of any church should be to have every member be a \_\_\_\_\_ of one of the HFGs, with the intent that each member become a contributing \_\_\_\_\_ in some way in the group.
2. Older and more traditional Sunday only saints may not want to be \_\_\_\_\_, but an effort should be made to invite them to become \_\_\_\_\_ of a home group where they may both receive and contribute.
3. In these last days, a very intentional effort needs to be made to get each new \_\_\_\_\_ attached to a Home Group as soon as possible.

#### **B. Connect To Maintain:**

1. Surveys have repeatedly shown that new people who begin attending a \_\_\_\_\_, if they do not make some kind of a connection to some individual or individuals by the third \_\_\_\_\_, they most likely will not come back.
2. In addition, surveys have also revealed that even \_\_\_\_\_ who obey the Gospel and are born again do not stay in a \_\_\_\_\_ that they do not make good connections to.
3. Thus, it becomes essential for any church wishing to \_\_\_\_\_ and maintain the people that are reached to become very intentional in its approach to making solid connections with \_\_\_\_\_ converts and visitors.

#### **C. Organize To Connect:**

1. The moment that a first time visitor shows up at the \_\_\_\_\_, it is important not just to welcome the new person, but to attempt to make conversation and connection to them.
2. Without being aggressive in the approach (important) one can make \_\_\_\_\_ with the new people and make them feel at \_\_\_\_\_ and comfortable in the new surroundings.
3. Once the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of the new person is ascertained, a Bible Study may be offered to them, and in some cases, people will be born again before they leave the service, but it is \_\_\_\_\_ important to enroll them in a Home Bible Study.
4. Home Group Connection – the number 2 goal now after a HBS is becoming the need to \_\_\_\_\_ the new convert to a Home Group where they will connect to a spiritual body on a local level.

#### **D. Home Friendship Group Growth:**

1. Leaders – each group has a \_\_\_\_\_ now, but each group \_\_\_\_\_ needs to be developing another individual to become a \_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of filling in during his absence, and when the day does come to multiply the group into a \_\_\_\_\_ one, a \_\_\_\_\_ is already prepared.
2. New Convert Connections – an organized effort needs to be \_\_\_\_\_ to connect both visitors and new converts to a Home Friendship Group as soon as possible.
3. Some of our churches across North America, especially in larger \_\_\_\_\_, because of the complications of travel times, public transit, etc. are focusing on HFGs as a \_\_\_\_\_ to foster spiritual growth through the local flocks nourishing and caring for the lambs.
4. When each member comes to understand that each HFG is a local \_\_\_\_\_ of believers meeting for the purpose of ministering to the needs of \_\_\_\_\_, and not just for self-serving purposes, the meeting will take on new meaning.
5. How To Implement A Plan – connecting the New Converts; Multiplying New Groups (12-15 adults)