

Reading: Acts 2:40 – 47

Topic: The Need & Purpose Of Home Friendship Groups

INTRODUCTION: As with every ministry, from time to time there must be a _____ and restating of the _____ and raison d'être of said ministry, so we will look at the Home Friendship Group ministry and its needed and necessary work.

I. REMEMBERING THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE:

A. *Evangelism:*

1. The first and most important purpose of Home Fellowship Groups is _____ - to open many doors of opportunity for people to be _____. (1 door or 25 doors) Acts 2:46
2. HFGs reach into many areas of the city and people who would not normally _____ a church, will go to a _____ in their own neighbourhood. Acts 10:23
3. If this purpose of evangelism is to be accomplished, then people must _____ friends, neighbours, co-workers, etc. to the meeting where they will be _____ by the presence of God.

B. *Discipleship:*

1. Church growth is exciting as new people come to the _____ and obey the Gospel, but every new convert must be _____ for like a new baby. I Pt. 2:2
2. HFGs provide a more intimate setting for a new _____ in Christ to share problems, get specific prayer, and also be able to _____ questions.
3. HFG members develop a care for one another in a _____ intimate setting than in the larger worship services at the church. I Cor. 12:25,26

C. *Fellowship:*

1. Fellowship is necessary to the health of the members of the _____ of Christ, as we are not made to be isolated and _____. I Cor. 12:21,22
2. We are strengthened by fellowshiping together, just as they were in the early _____. Acts 2:
42

II. FOCUSING ON THE PURPOSE:

A. *Getting People Connected:*

1. Statistics reveal that people who start attending a church, even if they experience _____, will only stay in the _____ if they make connections with other members. (3-4 weeks)
2. One of the best ways to get new people connected to other _____ is through a Home Friendship Group where they can _____ and interact with people from the church.

B. *Developing A System:*

1. When new people come to the church and are born again or express _____ in wanting to know how to live for God, one of the best ways to _____ them is through HBS and also to connect them to a Home Friendship group where they can feel comfortable to listen, observe and _____ questions.
2. Our system needs to be developed to the place where once a new individual is _____ again or is on the pathway to being saved, that they be connected as soon as _____ to the nearest Home Friendship Group.

III. ACTION TO FULFILL THE NEED & PURPOSE:

A. Understanding The Need:

1. There are several qualities that mark _____ and revival churches today, and one of the most effective things that churches are now using to maintain _____ is through HFGs.
2. HFGs are becoming smaller cells of the larger _____ body, fulfilling the need of personal contact that both new and older members of the _____ can avail themselves of. Rom. 16:3-5
3. When new people are in the group and they are being _____ by the presence of the Lord, it makes the atmosphere refreshing and exciting.

B. Action To Meet The Need & Purpose:

1. Getting back to the basics means remembering and working on the EDF of the HFG – E _____ D _____ and F _____.
2. When the focus of the group is centered on the right _____, fruit will result – the reaching of the _____ and the developing and discipling of _____ converts.

IV. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LEADERS:

A. Your Role:

1. It is important for the leaders of each HFG to understand that they are more than just _____ of a meeting, but also have the responsibility of being under-shepherds of a small _____ that needs care and guidance.
2. Each attendee of your group is not just a number or a face, but an individual with an eternal _____ that needs help and encouragement to _____ the Lord and be ready for heaven.
3. Do your best to get everyone in the group involved and participating in the _____ in some way or another – reading scripture, leading in _____, singing and music, etc
4. When people get involved they have more of a sense of _____ and feeling a vital _____ of the group.

B. Action Plan:

1. There are some steps that we need to take to _____ organize and develop our group:
 - a. prepare a list of your members with their contact information – phone, e-mail, etc.
 - b. perhaps appoint someone to be the info contact _____ to relay messages and information to the members of the group when needed (meeting location reminder, prayer requests, etc.)
 - c. When someone goes missing, either _____ them yourself or have someone responsible in the group to follow up on them.
 - d. Keep in contact with visitors, and if you are put in _____ with new converts at the church who are in your area, do your best to connect them to your _____ as soon as possible.

C. The Meeting – Some Reminders:

1. Be time conscious – start and finish at suggested times 7:30pm – 9:00pm give or take a few minutes. If children are present, be aware that they have _____ in the morning.
2. Be adaptable – if visitors are _____ in the meeting, every effort should be made to make them feel at _____.
3. Food – keep it simple – finger food – cheese, crackers, snacks, cookies, etc. are fine.

CONCLUSION: Home Fellowship Groups are a _____ effective method of winning lost souls and strengthening people in the Lord, so let us renew our purpose to reach our city.