

Which is better, to put chairs in rows, so people see the backs of the others' heads, or to let people face each other? [Answer: People can listen and talk to one another far better when chairs face each other.]



3. Plan with co-workers the upcoming worship.

Choose activities that fit current needs of your group.

Have the **children** present the drama and questions that they have prepared.

Read or tell by memory the stories above (Part 1) and ask the same question. You might also **read** and comment on the Philippian jailor's family gathering (Acts 16:22-34).

Pray during the worship for all evangelistic home meetings that have been planned.

Review recommendations for evangelistic house meetings (see below).

Ask for testimonies and reports from recent evangelistic home meetings.

To introduce the **Lord's Supper**, read Acts 2:43 and explain that the first congregations celebrated the Lord's Supper in homes.

Form **groups** of two and three. Pray, confirm plans and encourage one another.

Memorize together 1 Corinthians 14:24-25.

Levi, a Tax Collector, Gathered Sinners to Meet Jesus

Those who teach children should read study #45 for children.

1. Prepare Your Heart and Mind with God's Word.

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, you prepare persons and families everywhere to become your followers. Please help us to find such persons and to meet with them in their own groups."



Find in Mark 2:14–17 how Jesus met with sinners in their homes.

- What Jesus thinks about tax collectors [verse 14].
- Who invited Jesus to dine at his house [verse 15].
- Whom else Levi invited to his house [verse 15].
- What Jesus and those sinners were doing together [verse 16]
- What kinds of people Jesus called to repent. [verse 17].

Find in Acts 10: 24–33 how Peter met with seekers in their home.

- What kinds of people Cornelius had invited to his house [verse 24].

- What Peter's new attitude about non-believers was [verse 28].
- Why Cornelius had sent for Peter to come to his house [verses 30-32].
- What Cornelius invited Peter to tell to him, his relatives and his friends [verse 33].

Find in Acts 28:30–31 how Paul received callers at his house and taught them there.

- How long Paul stayed in his rented house in Rome.
- What he talked about with people who came to him there.

Find in 1 Corinthians 14:24–26 how to behave when unbelievers visit the group.

- How many people in the groups should be allowed to talk and share with the others?
- What kinds of things should the believers say?

Note: To prophesy in such a group is something that all believers can do. It is simply to speak words of comfort and encouragement, to edify others (1 Corinthians 14:3).

- What will God do in the hearts of unbelievers who hear the believers talking to the group?

Believers can do two important things more easily in small groups:

1. **New believers** easily bring their non-believing friends and relatives together in small groups to learn about Jesus, as Zacheus, Matthew and Cornelius did, in Luke 19:1-10, Matthew 9:9-13 and Acts 10:22-24.
2. **Mature believers** easily practice the interactive 'one-another' commands serving one another in a loving body that is small enough for everyone in it to be heard and to participate actively. New believers may be shy, so do not force them to speak before they are ready.

However, simply meeting in small groups or house churches does not by itself ensure that the group will do these two things. Sometimes, believers who have been passive 'hearers only' in a traditional church, or who know only the traditional form of classroom instruction that neglects interaction, bring those errors with them into the small group.

2. Plan with co-workers activities for the coming week.

- If unbelievers want to learn, then visit them and ask them to arrange to have others come to their home to hear about Jesus.
- If there are new believers in the congregation, visit them and ask them to arrange to have unbelieving friends and relatives come to their home to hear about Jesus.
- Relate to these "gathering groups" an Old Testament story that helps them to understand that the one true and holy God hears our prayers and is more powerful than all spirits. Examples include the flood (Genesis Gen 6:5-22), the destruction of Sodom (Genesis 18:20 through 19:29) and the idolatrous priests of Baal (1 Kings 18).
- Relate also a story about Jesus that shows His love and forgiveness, such as the stories that you studies in Part 1, above.
- Invite the people to continue to meet.
- Arrange with host to welcome the people who attend, to have them sit facing one another and to have fellowship in a culturally appropriate way.
- Follow the advice below on how to conduct evangelistic home meetings.
In a small group, arrange chairs, or other seating, for people to talk easily to one other.