

HOW TO RUN A HOUSE CHURCH

WHO?

Leaders – approved by Vicar

Participants - keep it local: neighbourhood or people group/missional focus within the local faith community

WHEN?

- Aim for a time during the week other than Sunday.
- Think long term –how the missional discipleship group can continue long term in a sustainable way.

WHAT?

- You can use the selection of house church liturgies at movementonline.org.nz/house-churches.
- You can also run a Bible study group.
- The container is less important than including all the missional discipleship principles:
 - UP – relationship with God
 - IN – relationship with the people of God
 - OUT – relationship with those still to come to know God

WHERE?

- In isolation: use technology such as Zoom and Google Hangouts. People can ring in who don't have computers and be on speaker phone.
- In Level 2 – if your home is large enough to maintain physical distancing, you could meet in homes. Otherwise, perhaps use both in-person and technology as needed.
- Home is great – encourages sharing of life and intimacy in a way a church lounge cannot.

HOW?

- Start strong – the culture you set in the first few sessions is the culture that will continue. Don't wait till you're 'comfortable' before going deep in discussion – if you wait, you'll not get there.
- Prayer – both intecessory and listening
- Praying out loud – grows trust, intimacy, courage, vulnerability, and enables hearing what God's placed on others' hearts so can join in prayer with them.
- Discussion – takes from head input to transformation in God
- Content - local is best - use what is locally provided; enables continued learning together as a local community of faith; and the voice and spiritual guidance of your local vicar. If no local provision – there will be weekly short videos based on the Sunday lectionary readings on movementonline.org.nz/house-churches.
- Discussion: the key three things to cover:
 - a. Understanding, asking the questions; teasing and exploring.
 - b. Personalise – What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it / what is your response to God; What could we ask you about that next time? (Accountability in love)
 - A helpful tool to help people process is the Kairos circle: <https://vimeo.com/101761387>
 - c. Mission in our local communities: What are we noticing, what is God saying about that? How could we as a group respond?

INTERGENERATIONAL IDEAS

- Allow all ages to lead the house church liturgy
- Encourage young members to bring 'listening activities' - they absorb a lot of content while colouring/building with Lego / doing a puzzle, are still engaged; and the parents are then less stressed about managing perceived behaviour challenges.
- Connectible (connectible.nz) has the current week's Sunday lectionary focus, with resources for input and discussion, activities to help engage in the topic, creative ways to pray and respond and so much more – for all ages!
- Godly Play video series and discussion questions are available on the Movement Online house churches page.