

How to Start a House Church

Quick Reference Guide

Congratulations! You're on your way to starting a house church.

Here's a simply summary of some of the items covered in our "how to start a house church" training.

[house church roles]

A house church leader has:

- (1) A **room** that can accommodate the number of people anticipated.
- (2) The willingness to host a **weekly** gathering "rain or shine."
- (3) A willingness to **contact/follow up** with people who miss service or have needs.
- (4) A willingness to attend a weekly online **leadership meeting**.
- (5) A willingness to submit a simple, **weekly report**.
- (6) A commitment to play the role of a **steward of God's church**, and not an owner.
- (7) A commitment to hold **Scripture as the ultimate authority**; pointing people back to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit and not to opinion or theory.
- (8) A commitment to **continually grow** in your own spiritual walk.
- (9) A desire to be fruitful and a commitment to **multiply**.
- (10) A willingness to **serve approximately 3-5 hours per week** outside of the service times.
(or whatever you feel is necessary)

Ultimately, you are a shepherd. Though there are administrative responsibilities, you are being entrusted by the Lord to help care for His sheep.

You will want to train up additional leaders – with the hope of multiplying and sending out leaders to plant their own house churches eventually!

An Assistant House Church Leader: shares the responsibility of leading the church, able to take on any pastoral and leadership responsibilities as needed.

Other roles you may want to recruit are:

- Host(s)
- Worship Leader(s)
- Greeter(s)
- Administrator(s)

[house church service outline + explanation]

1. **Welcome and Prayer (2 minutes)** – calling people together and welcoming the presence of God into our midst.
2. **Worship and Ministry (20 minutes)** – leading our church to give thanks – individually or corporately – as well as lifting our voices in praise and worship. Then, inviting the church to share needs and pray for one another, allowing the Holy Spirit to minister through us. [plus communion at least monthly]
3. **Testimonies and Vision (13 minutes)** – An opportunity for everyone to share brief testimonies, especially related to The BFAM Strategy, such as prayer walks, healings, persons of peace found, new Discover Groups, new disciples and new churches.
4. **Announcements and Giving (5 minutes)** – practical announcements and reminders, plus a brief exhortation about honoring God with our finances as we worship the Lord through giving. Sample exhortations are listed in the BFAM App under #5 – PLANT.
5. **Teaching and Response (35 minutes)** – We encourage every house church leader (or a teacher they've chosen) to teach verse-by-verse through books of the Bible beginning with John, Acts and Romans. We approach each lesson with four questions: 1) What does it say?, 2) what does it mean?, 3) what does it mean to us?, and 4) how should we respond in faith?
6. **Fellowship** (before and after)

[prepare to launch]

- (1) Prepare your heart (PRAY!)
- (2) Prepare the people (invite and remind)
- (3) Prepare your space (arrange the spaces and consider all 5 senses)
- (4) Prepare the Service (worship, announcements, message)

[resources available for house church leaders]

- (1) Weekly leadership meetings
- (2) Monthly personal check-ins
- (3) Leadership training videos/resources online
- (4) Basic BFAM Strategy Training (BBST)
- (5) Our App (Solid Lives / The Rock)
- (6) Advanced ministry training available through the BFAM Training Center

[next steps]

Complete the interest form and watch “Why House Churches” — and our leaders will contact you for the final two steps (a pastoral interview and background check).

It's that easy!