

Our house church meetings together are intended to be simple



What then is the conclusion, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. All things must be done for edification. 1 Corinthians 14:26

Simple Church

Congregational meetings are not meant to be complicated. I tell our house church meeting nearly every time we meet that a mature middle schooler should be able to lead our meetings. I then tell them the game plan.

1. We're going to ask what God is doing in our lives and let the group share.
2. We're going to have a time to sing our worship to God. We might have live worship if someone has a guitar or we might let the group members play songs off their phone that we can worship to. We might have a leader for the week that plays a couple of songs off their phone or computer. I've also been a part

of worship times where someone leads an acapella song that the rest of the group joins in with.

3. We'll have a time of waiting on the Spirit of God to speak to us and then share with the group what we sense He is impressing on our heart according to 1 Corinthians 14:26. The expectation is that the Holy Spirit will speak to every Believer in the group of something they can share to build up those in the group times. Often I've found that something one of the children shares is the most meaningful to me personally.

4. We'll then open the Scripture and look at a passage together as a group. We'll focus on things from the passage that we can actively obey as Believers for the coming week.

5. We'll close by asking if there's anyone who needs prayer and ask who we're reaching out to who doesn't yet know Yeshua.

We'll then have a time after our meeting to eat together and share together around tables. This is often the best part of our group times as we continue to share what God is doing in our lives.

That's our basic template for each meeting. We also attempt to follow the Holy Spirit's leading if there is something that's seems to be more important that week to spend more time on.

And if we as a group are collectively lukewarm and not growing in our walks with YHWH then we will have a boring meeting because (when I'm leading) I am committed to not "carrying the group." If we have more vibrant walks with God then our group will be more vibrant; if not, it will be more boring.

Sometimes I feel guilty that these Believers' meetings are so simple and easy. And because of my traditional western-culture Christianity upbringing I at times can feel that we're missing the way that church "should be done." I also at times crave the anonymity and the little responsibility of slipping in the back of a large church meeting and being ministered to by an anointed speaker and entering in songs accompanied by a gifted worship team. It certainly isn't wrong to do this, but I believe if this is our only diet of "church" that we are missing the heart of how we see Believers interacting in the Scriptures.

Smaller settings are messy, and it is next to impossible to hide how you are really doing (which is actually a huge safety!) in these smaller settings. As I look to the Scriptures I see that often times the local congregation is described as meeting in the home of a certain person. Meeting in the homes (as well as meeting in larger settings) was a normative part of their corporate expression.

My main intention with this email is to encourage those who have a desire to meet in smaller settings. If you don't have a desire to meet this way right now, then simply ask Yeshua if there's anything from these words that would be helpful to apply to your life. If you don't sense any present personal application or Holy Spirit punctuation then move on and don't give it another thought.

Father punctuate this message to those You want to hear this today and help us to apply what You would have us apply. Encourage us with this and lead us with the next step You would have for us related to this idea of simple church.