

H) Who should be our leader?

- In a little church, everyone can lead the others part of the time.
- Let everyone take an active part, so that their spiritual gifts can be active.
- Perhaps your big church will appoint someone as your official or main leader.
- Every church leader should train apprentices who will lead new churches.

I) When should our church start another church?

- When your little church becomes too big for everyone to participate actively, then start another littler church.
- When members must travel a long distance, start another church near their home.
- When people of another culture or language become believers, start a new church with them.
- When some members want to start another church, let them do so and train them.

J) How long should our church continue?

- Some churches last only for a few days, and serve a special purpose, such as training missionaries or serving transients.
- Many churches continue for a year or two.
- Most churches continue many years.
- Decide together how long your church should continue.

K) Should our church register with the government?

- The Bible does not require you to register.
- If you are a little church in a big church, then registration is not needed.
- If the authorities are hostile to believers, then registration might be unwise.
- If the authorities are friendly to believers, then registration might be helpful.
- Decide together to register or not.

L) Should we have a chapel?

- A little church should not use a chapel.
- If the government opposes believers, then churches should not meet in chapels.
- Several little churches sometimes meet together in a chapel or other big building.

M) Common Traits of Big and Little Churches

Big Churches

Public
Officer-led
Program-driven
Organization
Official doctrines
Weak relationships
Big cost
Grow by addition

Little Churches

Private
Gift-based
Inter-personal
Networks
Bible learned, applied
Strong relationships
Little cost
Grow by Multipling

Most big churches need little churches.
Most little churches should meet together as a big church, if it is safe to do so.

Should We Start Our Own Little Church?

You can start a church with family members, friends or other followers of Jesus.

It might be a little church within a bigger one.

A church is any number of people who band together to follow Jesus and to love one another.



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A) Why start a church?

- Jesus commanded his followers to love God and to love one another. A church is the best way to do that.
- Jesus told his followers to teach others to keep his commandments. Starting new churches is the best way to do that, too.
- God's Spirit gives "spiritual gifts" to every follower of Jesus, to serve one another. Meeting as a church is the best way to do this.
- Jesus' apostles started churches everywhere they went. We are to do the same.

B) Are we allowed to start a new church?

- Jesus told his followers to take his Good News to people every where in the world. They did that by starting churches with all kinds of people everywhere they went. We, his followers, still do that.
- Healthy churches start new churches. Some new churches are little churches that are parts of a bigger church. Churches sometimes send their members to start new churches far away. Other new churches start by themselves with new believers.
- Pastors can start new little churches with their big church members. Missionaries must start new churches wherever they go. Church members can start new churches with their families and friends. New believers can start new churches to help each other follow Jesus.

C) When should we start a new church?

- When new members join your church, you can start a new little church with them to help them become followers of Jesus.
- If new believers are culturally different from your church, then start a new church with them. Their families and friends will be attracted to the new church.
- If your church has stopped growing, then start new little churches where more people can learn to follow Jesus.
- If your church sends members as missionaries, then let them start new churches at home so they will how.

D) What do we need to start a new church?

- You need only two or more followers to start a church. You do not need money, education, a chapel or equipment. Agree together where you will meet--maybe in your own homes or shops.
- You should have a Bible or the part of the Bible called the New Testament. One of the members of the new church should be able to read the Bible to others. If not, then someone should be able to teach the members stories and verses from the Bible.
- You must know about the life that Jesus lived, about his death on the cross, about his return to life, and about how he went up into heaven.
- You must know what he promised to his followers and what he commanded his followers to do.

E) What will our new church do?

- Learn to worship God by praising him, by reading his promises, and for special events, by eating together.
- Learn to obey the commands of Jesus by showing love to each other, to needy people and to your enemies.
- Pray about everything you need and pray for others to become followers of Jesus.
- Help others to follow Jesus and help some of them to start new churches.
- Baptize new believers in water and receive them into your church.

F) Who can join our new church?

- If you are in a big church, then some of its members can join the little church.
- You who join together to start a church will be the first members.
- People that you help to become believers can be baptized and join your church.
- Other believers who do not have a church can join your church.

G) How can we get a new church started?

- Ask some believing friends to pray with you about starting a little church.
- Decide together with a small number of persons to form a little church.
- Review together Bible texts that talk about what a church does. For help contact Training@Paul-Timothy.net
- Pray to Jesus to send his Spirit among you and make you a church.