

## Start Churches Easily

**Anchor command.** “Whatever house you enter, ... if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on him. ... And remain in the same house.” *Luke 10:5-7*

**Anchor promise:** “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them.”  
*Matthew 18:20*

**Anchor story.** Lydia. Acts 16:11-15, 40.

**Anchor verse:** “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it!” *Matthew 16:18*

**Learning goals.** Learners will know Jesus’ instructions for evangelizing households

**Growth goals.** Learners will feel confident in their authority to plant tiny, new churches.

**Skill goal.** Learners will take steps to help new gatherings become house churches.

**Outcome goal.** Learners will multiply churches that love Jesus and obey his commandments.

### Basic Study

1. Find in **Luke 10:5-9** Jesus’ instructions to his apostles, on how to enter homes.
  - What kind individuals should you look for?  
(*Answer:* a ‘son of peace,’ that is, one who welcomes you to stay a while without dispute.)
  - What should you do in their home? (*Answer:* Heal the sick and tell the Good News. Let them invite others to come for healing and to hear the Good News.)
2. Find in **Acts 16:11-15, 40** how the apostles started a new church in the home of a new believer.
  - How long would the apostles stay in that town? (*Answer:* a few days.)
  - How did the apostles recognize a ‘person of peace’?  
(*Answer:* Lydia was reverent towards God and proved willing to listen to the apostles.)
  - Where did the apostles stay for the next few days? (*Answer:* At Lydia’s house.)
  - What did the apostles do with Lydia’s household?  
(*Answer:* They baptized her and her household.)
  - What does the Bible call Lydia, her household and any other new believers?  
(*Answer:* “the brothers,” that is, a new, little house church.)



**3. Plan with co-workers activities to do this week.** Some possible activities include the following:

- Take some believers on a walk, praying and seeking new persons of peace.
- Ask believers to name persons of peace in whose home they could pray for others' needs and share the Good News about Jesus.
- Arrange with seekers and new believers to invite friends and family to come for prayer and to hear the Good News.
- Lead new believers and their household to be baptized (if possible) and start a new little church in their home.
- Teach part of this study to existing house churches. Pray with them that the Lord will allow them to start new house churches.

**4. Plan with coworkers the upcoming worship time.**

- Lead believers through this study. You may have to plan to do parts of this study over several weeks.
- Form small groups and pray to the Lord to give them opportunities to start new house churches.
- Celebrate the Lord's Supper in tiny groups in a way that they could do so in others' homes. See Paul-Timothy study #105.

**Advanced Study**

**1. Discover from Matthew three promises of Jesus for those who start new churches.**

Find in **Matthew 16:18-20 something** that Jesus promised to do, and something that Peter was to do. (*Answer: Jesus will build his church. Jesus gave to Peter "keys" with authority to open the Kingdom of heaven.*)

Find in **Matthew 18:18-20 something** that Jesus promised to do, and something that the apostles were to do. (*Answer: Jesus would be present where believers gather in his name. The apostles were to pray with the same authority that Jesus had given to Peter.*)

Find in **Matthew 28:18-20 something** that Jesus promised to do, and something that the apostles were to do. (*Answer: Jesus would remain present with his followers till the end of the age. His followers are to make obedient disciples everywhere.*)

**2. Discover from Acts chapter 2 the steps the apostles took to start many new house churches.**

Find in **Acts 2:23-24, 32, 36** the main points of the message the apostles announced about Jesus. (*Answer: Jesus is Lord and Messiah. Evil men killed him by crucifixion. God raised him back to life. Eye-witnesses saw these things happen.*)

Find in **Acts 2:37-41** what the apostles did, in order to add new believers to their group. (*Answer: They instructed everyone to repent and to be baptized, promising them forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. They then baptized them and added them.*)

Find in **Acts 2:42** four main activities of new churches. (*Answer: (1) learn what the apostles taught about Jesus' commandments; (2) share together to meet needs; (3) celebrate the Lord's Supper; and (4) pray together.*)

Find in **Acts 2:46** two kinds of locales in which new churches gathered. (*Answer: (1) occasionally at temple, and (2) regularly in homes.*)

**3. Memorize the following steps that the apostles took, in starting many new little churches.**

- a) Announce the Good News about Jesus to any group who are willing to listen.  
Acts 10:33; 1 Corinthians 15:1
- b) Promise the forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit to those who want to be saved.  
Luke 24:47-49; Acts 2:38
- c) Baptize those who repent and welcome them into small gatherings.  
Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41
- d) Have each small gathering pray to the Lord Jesus, inviting him into their midst.  
Matthew 18:20; Revelation 3:20
- e) Begin practising together the commandments of Jesus, including the Lord's Supper.  
Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:25
- f) Inform each gathering of obedient disciples that they are a church by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philemon 1:2

**4. Plan with co-workers activities to do this week.** Some possible activities include the following:

- Start coaching believing heads of household and other leaders of small gatherings, in following the steps the apostles took in starting many new little churches.
- Plan a training seminar for those who start or lead small gatherings, in order to plan with them to make gatherings into little churches.
- Draw up a map of existing gatherings and house churches. Indicate on the map places where the Holy Spirit wants new gatherings and new house churches to start.

**4. Plan with coworkers the upcoming worship time.**

- Teach all or parts of this study. This may take several weeks.
- In big gatherings, form small groups to pray to the Lord to start new house churches, to pray for each other, and to celebrate the Lord's Supper in a manner that fits small numbers.
- Show the map that you have drawn. Invite believers and seekers to start new gatherings that could soon become little churches.
- Offer to coach those who will follow your instruction in starting gatherings and churches.
- Memorize together this definition of a church: *"A church is the Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of believers who love him and obey his commandments."*