

House Church Guide

Government restrictions, due to COVID-19, have caused us to rethink how we do church in this time of crisis. The good news is that we are not being asked not to worship, rather the whole world is being asked not to gather in mass, in order to prevent rapid spread of the virus. One of the best ways to do this is to worship through home churches.

You don't have to be a seminarian to lead a house church. But if you've never led a small group or church service before, this may seem daunting. I'm here to tell you that there is really nothing to it. All you need is a joyful heart ready to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. But, I'm providing a simple guide below to get you started. And remember, this isn't the only way, just an example of a way, please feel free to modify it according to your context.

ELEMENTS OF A HOUSE CHURCH

Praise and Worship - Praise and Worship is a time to reflect on our creator, His character and what He has done for us. It helps us to prepare our hearts to receive and respond to the message. This can be accomplished through music and song or through meditation and prayer. For the musically gifted and inclined you can sing song together either accompanied or A Capella. If not, but you like music, check out the [Bethany YouTube page for some prepared lyric videos](#) or search for your own videos.**

Message - A message from the Bible is essential at a worship gathering. To help you with this part [we have pre-recorded our weekly sermon for you to watch online](#) and provided some questions to discuss together afterwards.

Prayer - Prayer is essential to our worship and our edification. Don't be afraid to pray in front of one another. Pray for one another, for your neighborhood, your community, the nation, and the nations. Pray for the lost, the hurting, the wounded, and the needy. Our prayers are more powerful than you might imagine. Do not take prayer lightly and view as checking a box. Pour your heart out to the Lord, we have much to pray for in this time of crisis. And don't forget to thank him for our blessings even in the midst of the storm.

Fellowship - The best way for us to be effective as prayer warriors for one another is to fellowship. Share a meal together, talk about life, the good the bad and the ugly. Let others into your private life so that you might overcome the trials and tribulations in your life, that you might be encouraged, and so that you can celebrate joyously the wonderful things in this life.

Tithing - Tithing is an essential part of our worship. Even at a time where we cannot gather together as a corporate church it is still important for us to continue tithing and giving. To help make that possible for our church, we have set up a number of different ways for you to tithe from a distance, to include online giving. [Go to our website to see the different ways you can give.](#)

Ideas for Sample Services

Keeping in mind the above elements, tailor your home church to your community. You can gather any day or any time as works best in your context, but here are a couple examples:

Option 1 11:00 am - Welcome, Greetings, Fellowship
11:15 am - Praise Song 1 (Lyric Videos from YouTube)**
11:20 am - Message from Bethany Baptist Church Online
11:50 am - Discussion Questions
12:00 pm - Prayer
12:15 pm - Praise Songs 2 and 3
12:30 pm - Meal (Potluck Style) and Fellowship as long as you want

Are you short on time but want to gather, try this:

Option 2 6:00 pm - Share a Pizza and Fellowship
6:15 pm - Watch the Bethany Baptist Sermon from last Sunday Online
6:45 pm - Discussion Questions
6:55 pm - Pray For One Another
7:05 pm - Dismiss/Fellowship as time permits

Who Should Gather in My Home Church?

Any believers who are local to you. Maybe they go to another church, or don't have a church, or are looking for a church. Find out who the believers are in your neighborhood and gather together.

What About Unbelievers?

As you search for fellow believers, you will discover the unbelievers in your neighborhood. Pray for them and find opportunities to share the good news with them. Remember, we live in a broken world and we are worshipping the One who will restore it and bring order to the chaos. I guarantee they have some chaos in their life, share with them the Blessed Eternal Hope.

I hope you enjoyed this guide. If you have any questions feel free to reach out:

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****Lyric Video ProTip**

Go to **ClipGrab.org** to download a tool that allows you to download YouTube videos. This way you don't have to rely on the internet or be interrupted by untimely or inappropriate commercials.