



10 Ways Your Microchurch or House Church can become a Spiritual Family, and not just a Meeting.

1. Include one another in the natural daily rhythms of your life. Jesus shared life daily (not just weekly) with his disciples. Church life relationships should not be segmented from the rest of our lives. When you're being invited into the celebrations and life rhythms of those in your house church and you're inviting them into yours, then you're living like a spiritual family.

2. Not only love those in your house church, but learn to like them and want to be with them beyond just the meeting. It involves displaying Jesus' *phileo* love, an affection for those in your church, til it becomes an *agape* unconditional love. People are fascinating. Find something fascinating about the different people in your house. See their little quirks and nuances as fascinating. Learn their stories. Ask God to help you learn to not just love, but like your church family.

3. Pray for and with one another. Families should be sharing what's going on in their lives, and praying for one another when they have a need. If you're praying for each other, then you're living like a spiritual family.

4. Talk and communicate throughout the week, beyond just the house church meeting. This can be done through sending and sharing group texts, chats, etc. It can be done with individual texts, phone calls, etc. *Do you talk with your kids and spouse and even extended biological family throughout the week? If so, then why wouldn't you do the same with your spiritual family?*

5. Sacrifice your conveniences in order to prioritize being with and loving our spiritual brothers and sisters. If your biological or step son or daughter or a family member you love decides to stop by, or calls unannounced, or needs you right away do you turn them away, or do you stop what you're doing to help them? Living like a spiritual family involves making sacrifices to love our spiritual family.

6. Watch your language. Words can reinforce how "church" is the people and not the building or house you meet in. To reinforce this, instead of saying, "We're *going to* house church tonight" maybe say "We're *going to be with* our house church tonight?" Or instead of saying "*at* house church", say "*with* house church". It's a simple change, but can reinforce and help equip your church in remembering that the church is a people, a family, not a meeting or a building.

7. Give permission to everyone in your house church to live honestly and be vulnerable with one another, and to hold one another accountable. Practice this. Not everyone will understand or know how to live this way as a spiritual family. Some will need permission and guidance. Model this first, then instruct them, then give them permission to speak into each other's lives lovingly coming alongside one another.

8. Share....everything. Families share clothes, food, time, their struggles, their feelings, everything. It was said during the conversation that, ***"You know you're beginning to live like a spiritual family when sharing becomes second nature"***.

9. Play. Families have fun together. They go on vacations, play games, just spend time doing fun things together. Why wouldn't you do the same with your spiritual family?

10. Be Patient with One Another as you Learn to Live Family. Not everyone in your house church has experience or knows how to live like a family. We must give people time and space to learn what this looks like and then live it in everyday life.

SCRIPTURE SHARED: While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ***Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers.*** For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." Matthew 12:46-50

RESOURCE SHARED: [House Church Basics. Theses #1: Church is a Way of Life, NOT a series of Religious Meetings.](#)

***The above lessons come from [The Living Room Zoom](#) conversation, January 2024.*

