

HOUSE CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

Resources for
**House Church Pastor
& Sending House Church**



LIVING
CHURCH

MORE HOUSES.

- MORE DISCIPLES.
- MORE KINGDOM.



BIBLICAL
FOUNDATION



PRACTICAL
GUIDANCE



MULTIPLY
DISCIPLES



EXPAND
GOD'S KINGDOM.

House Church Multiplication

Resources for House Church Pastor & Sending House Church:

Articles:

- [Five Principles for House Church Multiplication](#)
- [Signs A Group is Ready to Multiply](#)
- [Planting House Churches](#)
- [Multiplication: Effective Method or Biblical Principle?](#)
- [Evangelism & Multiplication](#) (lots of different articles on each of these topics at this link)
- [Multiplication as a Sign of Health](#)

Video Clips:

- [How Do We Multiply As A House Church](#) (2 min)
- [How Does “We Are Church” Network Multiply Churches](#) (30 min)
- [Common Traits of House Churches That Multiply](#) (15 min)
- [Planting Churches that Reproduce: What is the Church and What It Takes to Plant a Cell Church](#)
- [Planting Churches that Reproduce: Steps to Planting a New Testament Cell Church](#) (6 minutes)

Podcast:

- [Multiplying Leaders | Episode #2 | The Living Room Podcast](#)
- [Multiplying Leaders | Episode #19 | The Living Room Podcast](#)
- [Sending | Episode #44 | The Living Room Podcast](#)
- Sending & Multiplying Examples | Episode # | The Living Room Podcast

Downloadable LC Documents (**email elucas@living-church for downloads**):

- Living Church Missionary Pathway (Disciple Making to House Church) Teaching Plan
- Moving from Bible Study to House Church (KC Underground)
- Ingredients for Multiplying Disciples & House Churches (The Living Room Network)

How Do You Prepare Your Current House Church for Multiplication?

Pray Personally and as a House Church for More Disciples & More Churches. You as the leader pray regularly and get your people praying about God sending and multiplying

Cast Vision for Sending & Multiplying with your House Church. If it isn't currently, sending and multiplying disciples and house churches needs to be a primary value, practice, and prayer request of your house church. When your current group meets, talk often and pray in your prayer times about making disciples and sending to start new Bible studies in new neighborhoods and places that will lead to new disciples and multiplying house churches.

Encourage your House Church to be living as Everyday Missionaries and starting Discovery Bible studies with people in their neighborhood, work, etc. When you meet together make it a regular practice to have people share opportunities they've had to share the gospel and share names of those they're desiring to become a disciple of Jesus. Give them resources on how to have Gospel Conversations and lead Discovery Bible Studies. (see Living Church Resource)

Take your House Church through the Missionary Pathway Teaching Plan. (see Living Church Resource)

Teach your House Church on Sending & Multiplying. Build into your house church teaching schedule teaching on sending and multiplying (ex: The Missionary Pathway). Highlight sending and multiplying when it's in the biblical text your studying. Show and teach biblical passages on sending and multiplying (ex's: how God is a Sending God. He sends Himself into the Garden of Eden. He sends His Own Son into our World. He sends His Own Holy Spirit. He Sends His Own Disciples on His Mission). Teach on Sending and Multiplying.

Periodically Share with your House Church Articles, Videos, & Podcasts on Making New Disciples & Multiplying House Churches. (see House Church Multiplication Resource list)

Identify Members within your House Church who are already reaching people, bringing people, or starting new Bible studies. Discuss sending them with others from your house church to start a new Bible study in their neighborhood or area with those they're reaching.

Plan a 24 Hour Prayer and Fast as a House Church. Together ask God for clarity on who to send, how, and where. Seek to mimic the actions of the first century Antioch church in Acts 13:1-5. After the fast, have a time of sharing its impact and with you privately or the group publicly if any specific people to send or places came to mind during the fast. Plan additional fasts if desired.

(Keep sharing videos, articles, podcasts with your house church on Sending & Multiplying)

Form a "Missionary Team" to be Sent: *From Your Conversations and Prayer and Worship, Approach and Meet with Who in your House Church the Spirit seems to be Burdening to Reach their Neighbors or others with the Gospel. This becomes your Missionary Team.* Most likely it will be your most faithful and serving House Church members (i.e. "Barnabus & Paul", Acts 13:1-5. The Antioch Church sent their best). Most likely it's those with a burden for reaching their neighbors and/or those who are already meeting with people who need Jesus. Begin discussing with these in your house church their thoughts on what it might look like to be sent and start a new gospel work where they live. Discuss if they're willing and desire to be sent, and who else from the House Church they would welcome or need to be sent as well to be a help and part of the Missionary Team.

Share with your House Church the “Missionary Team” God seems to have been Burdening to be Sent. Have the House Church begin praying for them and for wisdom.

(Keep praying as a House Church about sending and multiplying. Keep sharing videos, articles, podcasts with your house church on Sending & Multiplying)

Continue to Meet with the “Missionary Team” Praying & Discussing Next Steps for them to Be Sent and the Timeline. Equip the Missionary Team from your House Church with resources (Gospel Conversation Starters, Discovery Bible Study, Kids curriculum, etc) to help them as they prepare to reach and invite neighbors, friends, and others to be part of a gospel Bible study.

SEND. When its determined the day the Missionary Team will begin a new gospel work or Bible study and where, share this with the House Church and set a time as a House Church to Lay Hands on and Pray over this Missionary Team. Remind the House Church this is hard but healthy. Healthy Churches send and multiply. After prayer, celebrate what God is doing and commitment of sending House Church to continue to praying for the Missionary Team and receiving updates together.

Post-Sending. Plan a time for the House Church and Missionary Team to meet all together to share prayer requests, testimonies of what God is doing, and pray for one another. Do this once every 3-6 months if possible.

(Keep praying as a House Church about sending and multiplying again. House Church Pastor keep meeting with the Missionary Team for shepherding and support.)

How Do You Start a House Church?

(from the House Church Handbook)

The Quick Answer Is - You Don't. You don't start a church or house church. You start with making new disciples of Jesus. A new church or house church is just the result, product, or what forms from new disciples of Jesus being made (Acts 2:42-47, Acts 11:19-26, 14:19-23, Titus 1:5). If this is the case, the better question might be - "How Do New Disciples Become a House Church?"

First, Pray. It starts with praying asking the Lord of the harvest to send you and others into the harvest (Matthew 9:35-38). So, pray. Pray a lot. Pray until God brings people to you or you to people ready to respond to the gospel of Jesus.

Next, While Still Praying, Be an Everyday Missionary. Realize that Jesus didn't only call you and your House Church only to be His disciple. He called you all to be "fishers of men". Let them know Jesus is turning you all into something - missionaries, disciple makers (Matthew 4:18-20). Begin reminding your house church they are missionaries where they live, work, and play. Help them think like and begin living where they live like they would if they were a missionary in a different country. Build relationships with those who are not yet disciples of Jesus engaging in gospel and spiritual conversations with them.

EMAIL FOR FREE RESOURCES: The Missionary Pathway, BLAB, Gospel Conversations

Next, Begin a Bible Study With Those Who are Interested. As you build relationships with those who are not yet disciples of Jesus, with those who seem to show interest in spiritual conversations, ask if they would be interested in learning about Jesus with you through a Bible study together. Begin studying one of the four gospels together, or work through a book like Christianity Explored or LIVE: Experience Christ's Life by Joel Comiskey.

EMAIL FOR FREE RESOURCES: The Missionary Pathway, The Teaching Funnel & How To Lead A Bible Study

Next, Make New Disciples of Jesus (use 4 Practices of Discipleship Worksheet as a possible resource). As you now study the Bible together, and those in the study begin learning and understanding about Jesus and the gospel, move from discussion to decision or response. At some point, as guided by the Holy Spirit, ask if anyone would like to respond to Jesus and give their life to Him accepting His invitation for forgiveness of sins which He provided by His death and resurrection. With those who do respond and desire to become followers of Jesus, you can begin working through the 4 Practices of Discipleship together.

EMAIL FOR FREE RESOURCE: 4 Practices of Discipleship Worksheet

Move From Becoming a Bible Study to Becoming a House Church *(use KC Underground's "Moving from Discovery Bible Study to Microchurch" as a possible resource).* In time, as this group of new disciples continue to grow and live out the practices of discipleship together as a new community, and live in obedience to Jesus, help them discover how living these practices together is being a church family much like the first disciples of Jesus we see in the first century. We highly encourage you to use the resource from KC Underground to help with this part of the process of becoming a house church.

EMAIL FOR FREE RESOURCE: KC Underground's From Discovery Bible Study to Church

Pray, Seek, And Assign a Biblically Qualified Pastor to Shepherd this New Community of New Disciples. As stated previously in this handbook, if this new community of new disciples is truly functioning like a church family, the pattern and practice we see in the New Testament is this new community needing a pastor/leader overseeing and shepherding them (see Acts 14:19-23, 20:17-28, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9)). Identifying who the pastor is will take time, but we believe a biblically qualified pastor is necessary for this new community to function in a healthy way as a New Testament house church. If there isn't anyone within the group with the burden to oversee and shepherd, and with the character required for this role, then you wait and pray for God to raise up or bring a pastor-shepherd. (We encourage you to consider seeking wisdom from a house church network or other pastors as you seek to fill this role for this new community). Until God provides the pastor, continue living the practices of discipleship together. If and when someone is raised up or assigned as the pastor meeting the biblical qualifications, the community then can lay hands on them recognizing that person as the pastor-shepherd over this new community of new disciples. It is worth reminding of Paul's caution against laying hands too quickly on someone to lead God's people (1 Timothy 5:22).

EMAIL FOR FREE RESOURCE: Living Church Pastors Pipeline

**We have seen from our own experience in leading house churches and multiplying leaders how placing people too quickly into a pastoral leadership role who do not have a Spirit given burden to shepherd, and/or also lack the necessary proven character observed over time can nearly destroy new communities of God's people. It's better to wait than to place hands too soon on a leader who is not ready. We have experienced firsthand the reason for the Apostle Paul's warning (see 1 Timothy 5:22)*