

Households of Faith - Housegroups - Cell Groups. Dated 1999. Unsure if or when shared with SCF*

These are names given by today's churches to describe what they do during the week in various home settings. Peter (Barnes) and I, plus many of you feel very much that Stevenage Christian Fellowship are looking for this kind of activity to begin again and have encouraged a few people to go ahead in fairly gentle terms, so in fact it has already begun.

Acts 2 verse 42-47

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1. They devoted themselves to the Apostles teaching. This means they practised what the Chief Apostle (Jesus Christ) had taught. They did not teach it or talk about it, they did it.

Matthew 9 verse 12-13

But when Jesus heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded Stevenage Christian Fellowship* and Peacemakers International, about which you can find more information at http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

Households of Faith - Housegroups - Cell Groups. Dated 1999. Unsure if or when shared with SCF*

This was the Apostles doctrine, to bring healing to sick souls, the unsaved. Learn about compassion, Jesus had compassion for the unsaved and we should too. If we don't have it we should pray for it.

Matthew 10 verse 5-15

These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; 6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give. 9 Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, 10 or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support. 11 And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave that city. 12 As you enter the house, give it your greeting. 13 If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace. But if it is not worthy, take back your blessing of peace. 14 Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet. 15 Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

The above scripture explains our task in detail.

2. They met for fellowship. They loved one another, they were friends. If we cannot love our brothers and sisters in the Lord, how shall we ever love our enemies? Forgiving one another enables the Holy Spirit to have the liberty to act on our behalf and answer our prayers.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded Stevenage Christian Fellowship* and Peacemakers International, about which you can find more information at http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

Households of Faith - Housegroups - Cell Groups. Dated 1999. Unsure if or when shared with SCF*

3. They broke bread together. The breaking of bread was the sharing of a *simple* meal together, remembering Jesus as they ate together, they did it from house to house. There was no distinction here, they all opened up their hearts and homes to Jesus *first*, then to each other, in that order. Households of faith then are the homes where Jesus rules and the households trust Him for everything and practices His ways.

Matthew 6 verse 9-15

'Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. 10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 'Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.' 14 *For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.*

4. They prayed together, not only for each other's needs but as Jesus had instructed, the Lord's Prayer, they prayed that His Kingdom would be established, they were seeking His Kingdom first, knowing that as they did so that all the other things would be added to them.

Matthew 6 verse 25-34

"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? 27 And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?"

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded Stevenage Christian Fellowship* and Peacemakers International, about which you can find more information at http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

Households of Faith - Housegroups - Cell Groups. Dated 1999. Unsure if or when shared with SCF*

28 And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! 31 Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' 32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

They were praying prayers of faith.

These are our biblical guidelines, that we, the elders want to see established. These households are sharing in the caring of each person and our neighbours. The elders are called to oversee the whole work of the church of which every member has a part to play. Will you respond?

We do not need more teaching to take place within the households, this ministry will continue to operate on Sunday mornings and at Dennis and Brenda's on alternate Monday evenings. Please do not feel any pressure to have to teach your household of faith, simply do the 4 things listed.

We are in the final year of this decade, the decade of evangelism, if everyone would begin to pray for just one unsaved person in 1999, we could double the church size in one year. It would take faith and discipline to succeed, this is the real purpose of our fellowship. Jesus commanded it, will you respond to His call? We should join ourselves to the Households closest to where we live.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded Stevenage Christian Fellowship* and Peacemakers International, about which you can find more information at http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/