



NEW COMMUNITY
BEYOND SUNDAYS



HOUSE
CHURCH

HOUSE CHURCH

A NEW EXPRESSION FOR A NEW NORMAL

LEADER'S GUIDE





HOUSE CHURCH

ORIENTATION

01

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How Do I Do This?

01 WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "CHURCH"?

Understanding the Nature of the Church // ECCLESIOLOGY

- What are some of the most powerful experiences you've had as a part of a church? Why were they so powerful?
- **Key Question: What Do We Mean by Church?**
EKKLESIA

- **Acts 2:41-47**

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- What were the irreducible minimums of the Early Church?

UP = Transformation

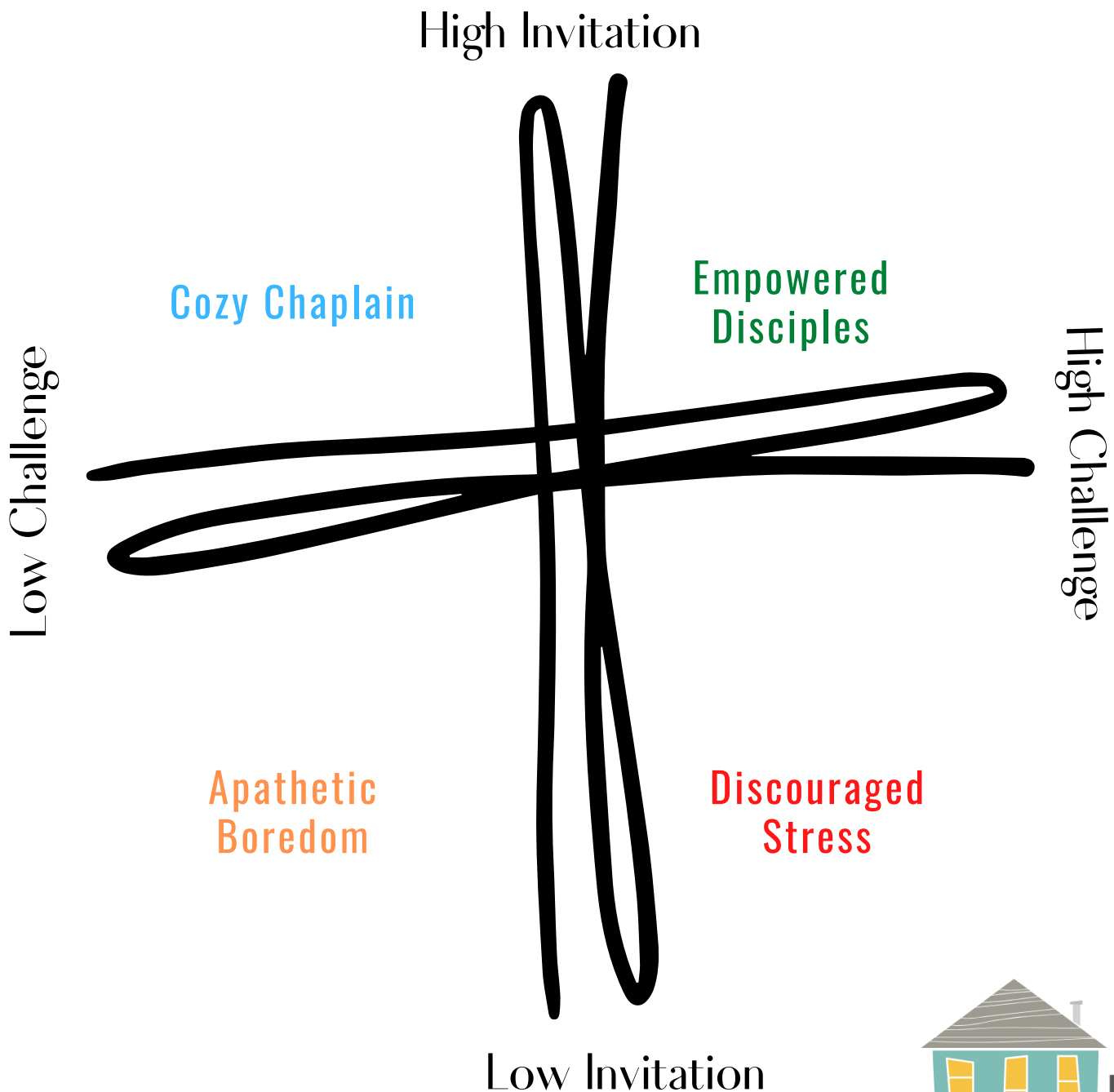
IN = Community

OUT = Mission



01 WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "CHURCH"?

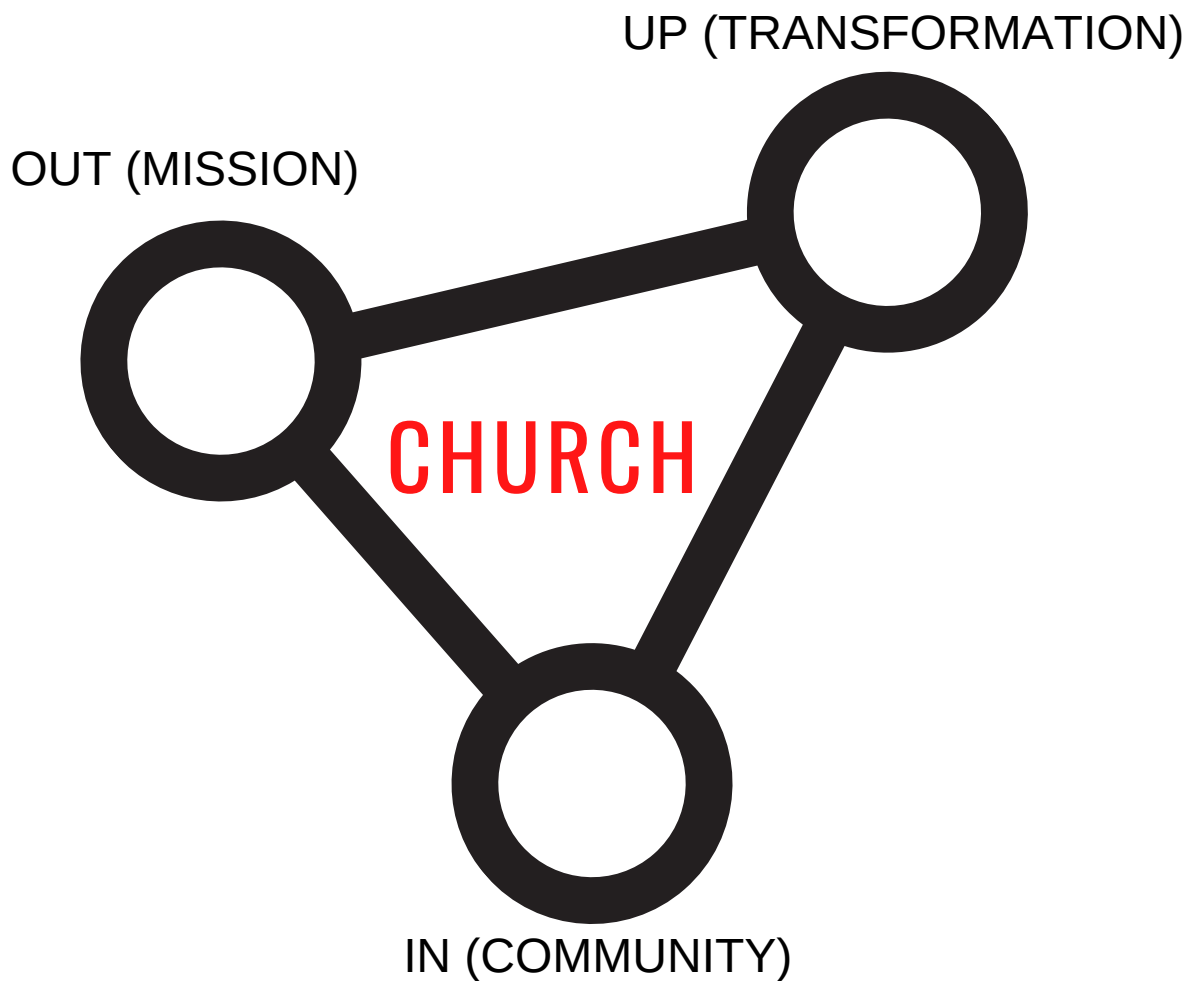
A DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE // INVITATION & CHALLENGE



HOUSE
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01 WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "CHURCH"?

THE CHURCH // OVERLAP OF THE THREE DIMENSIONS



Which of the three dimensions are you most passionate about?

Which feels most difficult for you?



02 CAN CHURCH REALLY BE IN A HOUSE?

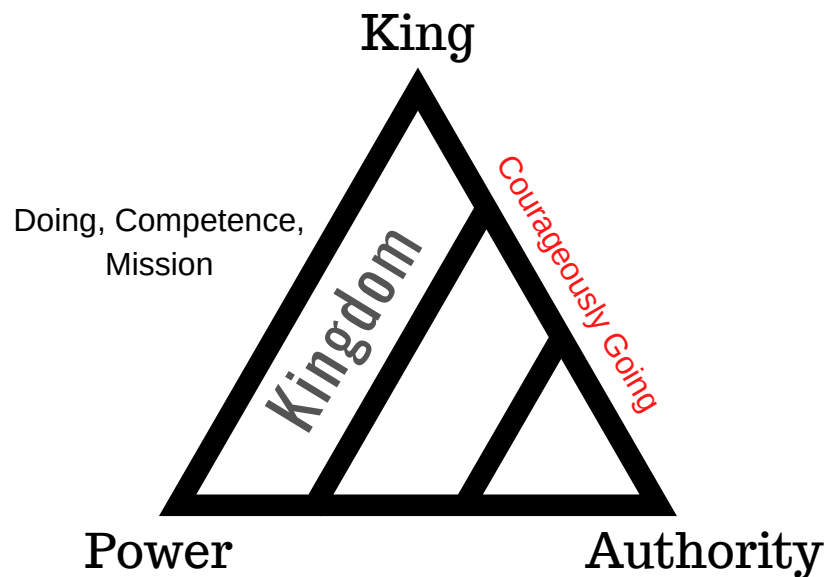
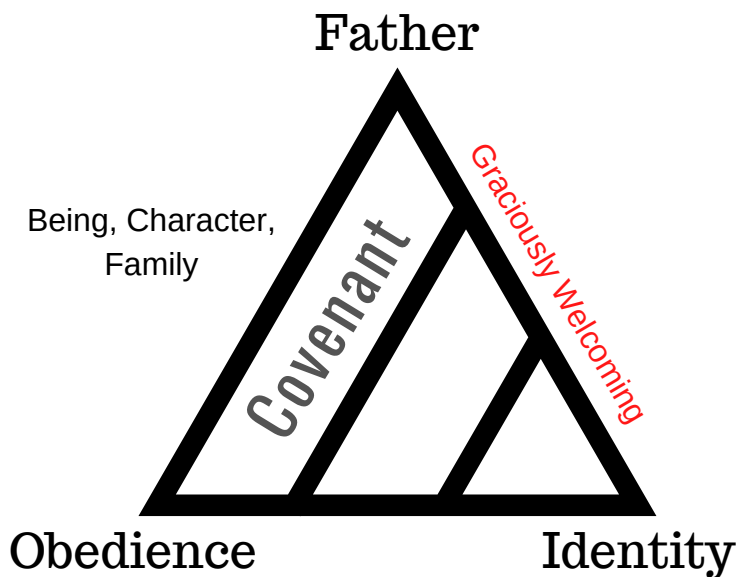
- Acts 18:4, 6-7

4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. 6 ...But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, 'Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now I will go to the Gentiles.' 7 Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. 8 Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

How does Paul do MISSION here? TRANSFORMATION? COMMUNITY?

OIKOS = The entire HOUSEHOLD.

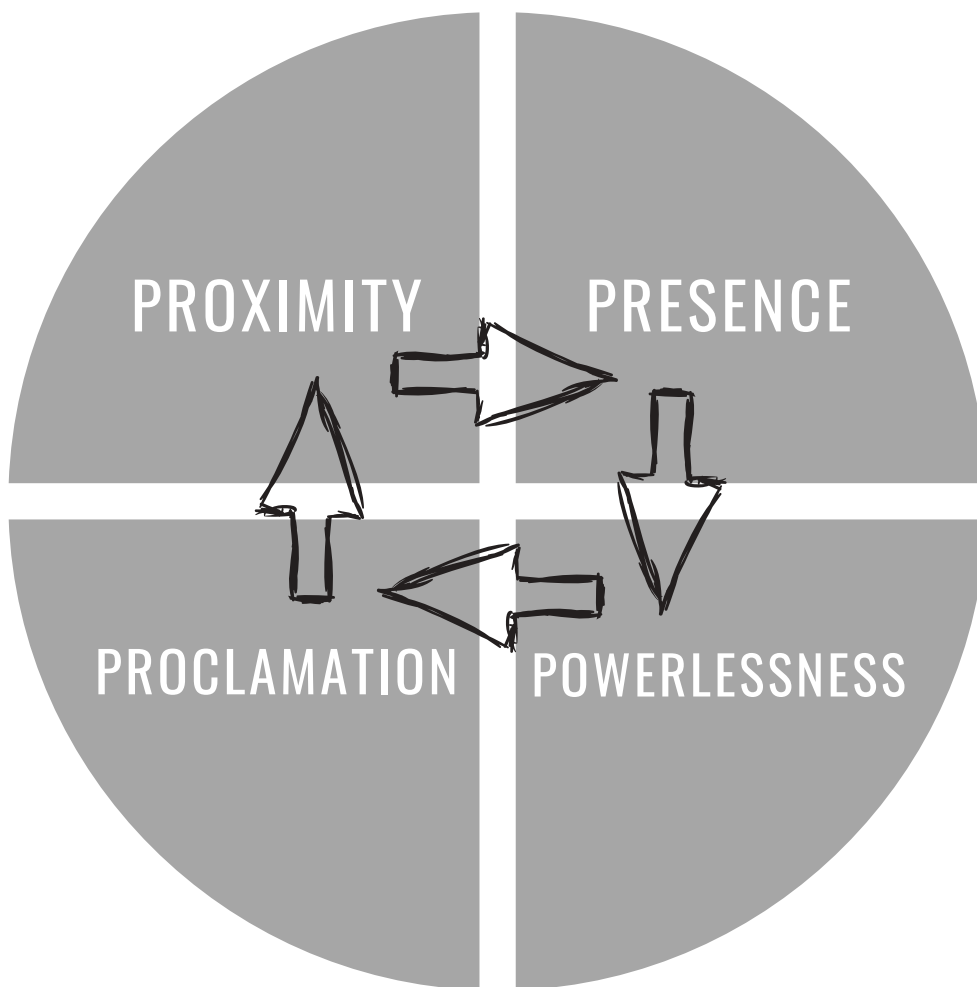
Ecclesiology = How the Church is to be understood in light of who God is.



02 CAN CHURCH REALLY BE IN A HOUSE?

How do we actually be the Church?

INCARNATIONAL PRESENCE



More examples: **John 1 // John 4**



02 CAN CHURCH REALLY BE IN A HOUSE?

Conclusions About Ecclesiology:

- The early Church was a **CONTINUATION** of the work of Jesus of both **COVENANT** and **KINGDOM**.
- The Church is an **OUTPOST** of the Kingdom - welcoming as citizens all who would identify with Christ to the **OIKOS** of God.
- The Church was known for its **SHARED LIFE** - table fellowship - welcoming all people from all places and loving each other well.

The Original Question: **Can Church Really Be in a House?**



03 WHAT HOUSE CHURCH SHOULD I PLANT?

Who Are You Called to Reach?

- *Acts 16:6-10*

6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Understand your **Social Contexts**.

1. At the top of the circles, write the area of life where you interact socially. Label as many circles as apply to you. **Examples:** Neighborhood, sports teams, work, people I bike with, etc.
 2. In the lines within each circle, write the names of people in that context.
 3. If there is a person of peace* in a particular circle, circle their name.
- *person of peace:** someone who welcomes you, receives you, serves you, and opens their network to you. A connector.



03 WHAT HOUSE CHURCH SHOULD I PLANT?

Context:

People:

Context:

People:

Context:

People:

Context:

People:

Context:

People:



**HOUSE
CHURCH**

03 WHAT HOUSE CHURCH SHOULD I PLANT?

Next, start to develop a Clear Mission Focus

As the early Church weighed a key mission decision, they recognized that a process of discernment was at work. So when they presented their decision, they said it 'felt good to the Holy Spirit and to us.' (Acts 15:28)

So, we want you to spend time praying, reflecting, and thinking through where you are seeing the Holy Spirit's activity *already* at work in the places of your life where a Mission Focus just makes sense. Where might there be an intersection? Think through it practically, while also letting the Holy Spirit illuminate things to you. Answer the following:

Step 1: *It seemed good to the Holy Spirit...*

1. Where do you currently have favor?
2. As you think about the possibility of fruit for the Kingdom (lives transformed, healing and restoration, etc.), where do you see the highest potential?
3. Who is already responding positively to you where you live, work, and play?

Step 2: *And to us...*

1. As you think about the Kingdom, who are you most passionate about seeing come to faith? Who do you currently feel burdened for ?
2. Where do you think you will easily connect and impact lives?

Step 3: *Write down a potential Mission Focus for your House Church. (See examples of Mission Focus statements in the resources.)*



04 CAN I REALLY DO THIS?

Building your own leadership courage.

- **Luke 5:1-11**

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,[a] the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

- **How are you feeling about your own capability in this?**

- **House Church Shifts:**

From Spiritual **Insecurity** to Spiritual **Courage**

From **Private Spirituality** to **Public Hospitality**

From **Isolated Lone Rangers** to **Collaborating Disciple-Makers**

Qualifications/Commitments

- Shared Leadership
- Character of a disciple (1 Tim. 3)
- Seek to multiply
- Regular check-ins (feedback sheet, 1x month coaching; cohort 1x/month)



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05 HOW DO I DO THIS?

The Nuts and Bolts

- **The Nuts** // Some Guidelines

Regular

Guided

Spirit-Led

Gatherings

Remember the Minimums

- **The Bolts - Content/Resources for You**

New Com Online - *Launching in June*. Thursday evening premieres.

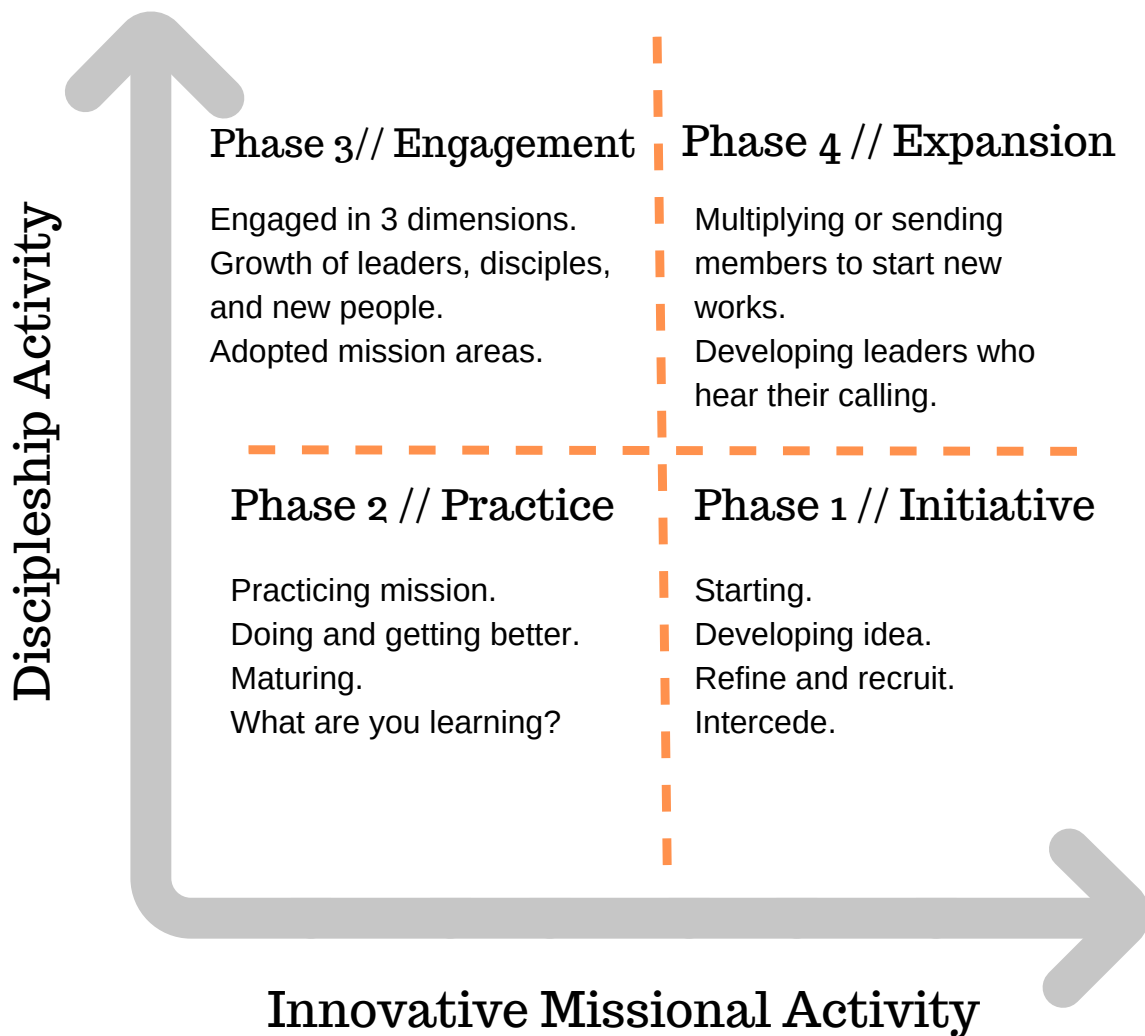
House Church Site - newcommunitywv.com/house-church-leader-resources

Password: *upinout*



06 WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

THE PHASES OF THE HOUSE CHURCH



**HOUSE
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07 WHAT'S NEXT?

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE NOW

1. Pray and seek clarity for mission focus.
2. Identify co-leader(s).
3. Determine your gathering structure/schedule.
4. Set your kickoff gathering(s).
5. Prayerfully invite your social networks.
6. Begin to meet.
7. Keep praying!
8. Watch what God does!
9. Check in regularly.

