

STAGE: WITNESS

HOUSE CHURCH

PLANTING — COMPLETE STARTUP & GROWTH GUIDE

Real Testimonies. Radical Transformations.

Launch and Scale a Multiplying Discipleship Community — From Vision to Launch to Multiplication

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Planting a House Church

Complete Startup & Growth Guide — Comprehensive & Expanded Edition (18,000+ words). Launch and scale a multiplying discipleship community. From vision to launch to multiplication: the complete roadmap for starting and growing a house church.

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INTRODUCTION — WHY HOUSE CHURCHES MATTER

The House Church Movement

House churches are experiencing rapid growth.

Why?

They're Biblical

- Early church met in homes (Acts 2:46, Romans 16:5, Colossians 4:15)
- Intimate settings for discipleship
- Relational focus
- Biblical model
- Scriptural foundation

They're Personal

- Small, intimate community
- Real relationships form
- Accountability happens naturally
- Vulnerability possible
- Deep discipleship occurs

They're Reproducible

- One group plants another
- Exponential growth possible
- Multiplying disciples
- Organic movement
- Sustainable model

They're Accessible

- No building needed
- Lower overhead
- Flexible meeting times
- Accessible to everyone
- Inclusive community

They're Effective

- Higher discipleship
- More engagement

- Faster growth
- Stronger community
- Lasting impact

Types of House Churches

House churches vary:

Primarily Teaching-Focused

- Bible study emphasis
- Teaching is central
- Prayer and discussion
- Growing understanding
- Head knowledge

Primarily Relational/Discipleship

- Relationships emphasized
- Mentoring focus
- Life-on-life discipleship
- Transformation focus
- Character development

Primarily Missional

- Community service focus
- Outreach emphasis
- Social justice
- Incarnational presence
- Action-oriented

Hybrid Model (Recommended)

- Teaching + relationship + mission
- Balanced approach
- Complete discipleship
- Head, heart, hands
- Comprehensive growth

PART 1 — VISION AND FOUNDATION

1.1 Clarifying Your Vision

What Is the Purpose?

Before planting, get crystal clear:

Why are you planting?

- Reach unchurched people?
- Multiply disciples?
- Deeper discipleship?
- Community service?
- Missional presence?
- Plant new churches?
- All of the above?

What problem are you solving?

- People can't find intimate community?
- No discipleship happening?
- Church is too large/impersonal?
- Geographic gap (people can't travel)?
- Missional need not being met?
- Multiplication not happening?

What is success?

- What does thriving look like?
- How will you measure progress?
- What are the goals (1 year, 3 years, 5 years)?
- How many disciples?
- How many new believers?
- How many plants planted?

Who is the target?

- Unchurched seekers?
- Backslidden believers?
- Young professionals?
- Families?
- Students?

- Any/all believers?
- Specific demographic?

Defining Your Model

What type of house church?

Size Model:

- 8–12 people (intimate)
- 15–25 people (larger but still relational)
- 30+ people (mega-small group, breaking into sub-groups)
- **Recommended:** Start 8–12, grow to 15–25, then plant

Meeting Model:

- Weekly?
- Bi-weekly?
- How often?
- Consistent schedule?
- Flexible schedule?
- Same location each time?

Content Model:

- Bible study focused?
- Prayer focused?
- Discussion focused?
- Worship focused?
- Service focused?
- Teaching focused?
- Multiple elements?

Growth Model:

- Closed group (same people)?
- Open group (invite others)?
- Invitational?
- Outreach focused?
- Organic growth?

Multiplication Model:

- Plan to multiply from start?
- When do you split?

- How do leaders develop?
- How do you plant?
- Multiple tiers planned?

Vision Statement

Create a clear vision statement:

Format: “We are planting a house church to [PURPOSE] among [TARGET PEOPLE] through [METHOD] in order to [ULTIMATE GOAL].”

Examples:

“We are planting a house church to build intimate discipleship among young professionals through missional community in order to see them transformed into Christ’s image and multiplied as disciple-makers.”

“We are planting a house church to reach unchurched families in our neighborhood through genuine hospitality and relational evangelism in order to see them encounter Jesus and become His followers.”

“We are planting a house church to develop leaders who multiply disciples through teaching, prayer, and accountability in order to launch a movement of reproducing disciples.”

1.2 Spiritual Preparation

Personal Preparation

Before planting, the planter must:

Have a Solid Foundation

- Mature faith (3+ years as Christian)
- Clear conversion story
- Evidence of spiritual growth
- Consistent Scripture study
- Active prayer life
- Growing holiness

Be Called by God

- Confirmed sense of God’s leading
- Others affirm the calling
- Peace about direction
- Persistent burden
- Conviction about this specific work

Have Leadership Credibility

- Life demonstrated character

- Relationally mature
- Can handle conflict
- Spiritually grounded
- Proven leadership
- Trusted by others

Be Willing to Sacrifice

- Time commitment
- Personal energy
- Financial investment
- Comfort disruption
- Privacy invasion
- Long-term commitment

Prayer and Fasting

Begin with prayer:

Weeks 1–2: Foundation Prayer

- Pray about the vision
- Pray for clarity
- Pray for God's will
- Pray for discernment
- Pray for team

Week 3: 3-Day Fast

- Clearer hearing from God
- Spiritual refocus
- Earnest intercession
- Spiritual discipline
- Divine confirmation

Week 4–8: Ongoing Prayer

- Daily intercession
- Scripture meditation
- Worship and thanksgiving
- Intercessory prayer for future members
- Prayer for leaders

Ongoing Prayer Strategy:

- Daily prayer (15–30 minutes)
- Weekly prayer meeting (with core team)
- Monthly extended prayer
- Prayer journal
- Prayer partners

Building Core Team

You can't do this alone.

Identify Potential Core Team:

- Who shares the vision?
- Who is spiritually mature?
- Who can commit?
- Who is trusted by others?
- Who has different gifts?
- Who is faithful?

Recommended Core Team Size:

- **Minimum:** 3 (you + 2 core team members)
- **Ideal:** 3–5 core team
- **Too many:** Hard to get agreement
- **Too few:** Burden on you

Core Team Roles:

- Leader (vision caster, overall direction)
- Co-leader (assistant, backup)
- Worship leader (prayer, worship)
- Hospitality lead (setup, welcome, food)
- Administrative support (organizing, logistics)

Building Team Chemistry:

- Pray together regularly
- Share the vision multiple times
- Build trust through small projects
- Spend time together socially
- Pray for alignment
- Address concerns early

PART 2 — LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

2.1 Leadership Model

Plurality vs. Single Leader

Plurality Model (Recommended):

- Multiple elders/leaders
- Shared responsibility
- Checks and balances
- Different perspectives
- Biblical model (Acts 20:17, Titus 1:5)

Advantages:

- Prevents domination
- Shares burden
- Multiple gifts
- Accountability built in
- Sustainability (if one leaves)
- Health and longevity

Single Leader Model:

- One primary leader
- Faster decisions
- Clear direction
- Vulnerable model
- Burnout risk

Recommendation: Start with 2–3 leaders, add as you grow.

Leadership Roles

Pastor/Leader Role

- Casts vision
- Teaches/preaches
- Pastoral care
- Spiritual leadership
- Accountability
- Final decision-maker (with input from team)

Co-Pastor/Assistant Pastor Role

- Supports lead pastor
- Backup teaching
- Discipline/accountability
- Leadership development
- Administrative support
- Handles issues when lead is unavailable

Worship/Prayer Leader Role

- Leads prayer time
- Worship leadership
- Spiritual atmosphere creation
- Intercession
- Ministry time

Community/Hospitality Leader

- Oversees welcome
- Food coordination
- Setup/cleanup
- Newcomer integration
- Event planning
- Community building

Teaching/Discipleship Leader

- Small group discussions
- Study preparation
- Question facilitation
- Application focus
- Discipleship pathway development

Outreach/Mission Leader

- Connects with community
- Outreach planning
- Service projects
- Evangelism training
- Invitations

Administrative Coordinator

- Communications
- Scheduling

- Records
- Finances
- Logistics

Leadership Development

Identify potential leaders:

Look for:

- Spiritual maturity
- Character evidence
- Faithfulness
- Willingness to serve
- Growing influence
- Teachability

Leadership Pipeline:

Year 1:

- Identify potential leaders
- Give responsibility
- Develop informally
- Provide mentoring
- Watch their growth

Year 2:

- Formalize some leadership roles
- Give more authority
- Provide training
- Develop skills
- Increase responsibility

Year 3:

- Full leadership team
- Shared decision-making
- Training others
- Planning future leaders
- Preparing to multiply

2.2 Decision-Making Structure

Governance Model

How do you make decisions?

Autocratic (Single person decides)

- Fast
- Clear
- Vulnerable
- Lacks input
- Can miss perspectives

Consensus (Everyone agrees)

- Takes time
- Highest buy-in
- Can stall
- Requires wisdom
- Best decisions often

Collaborative (Leaders decide with input)

- Balanced approach
- Honors input
- Leaders have authority
- Timely decisions
- Health and participation

Recommendation: Collaborative model

Decision-Making Process

For Major Decisions:

Step 1: Identify the Decision

- What needs deciding?
- Why does it matter?
- Who is affected?
- Timeline for decision?

Step 2: Gather Input

- Listen to people affected
- Consider multiple perspectives
- Research options
- Pray for wisdom
- Seek counsel

Step 3: Leadership Discussion

- Core team meets
- Share perspectives
- Discuss implications
- Listen to each other
- Pray together

Step 4: Decision

- Lead pastor (with counsel) makes decision
- Or reach consensus if possible
- Communicate clearly
- Explain rationale
- Address concerns

Step 5: Implementation

- Clear action steps
- Assign responsibility
- Timeline
- Communication
- Follow-up

PART 3 — DETAILED LAUNCH TIMELINE

3.1 Pre-Launch Phase (Months 1–3)

Month 1: Prayer and Clarification

Week 1:

- Clarify personal calling
- Pray for confirmation
- Write vision statement
- Identify initial core team members
- Schedule meetings

Week 2:

- Meet with potential core team members (individually)
- Share vision
- Gauge interest
- Listen to concerns
- Pray together

Week 3:

- Host first core team meeting
- Share full vision
- Discuss model/structure
- Build unity
- Establish prayer rhythm

Week 4:

- Week of prayer/fasting
- Clarify direction
- Address concerns
- Solidify commitment
- Create action plan

Outcomes Month 1:

- ✓ Vision clarified
- ✓ Core team identified
- ✓ Prayer rhythm established
- ✓ Commitment level confirmed

Month 2: Planning and Preparation

Week 1:

- Determine meeting location
- Select meeting time
- Create first meeting agenda
- Prepare welcome materials
- Plan outreach

Week 2:

- Identify first 15–20 people to invite
- Personal invitations begin
- Share vision with potential members
- Answer questions
- Build excitement

Week 3:

- Finalize location/logistics
- Arrange chairs/space
- Create name/logo (optional)
- Prepare worship elements
- Plan first meeting flow

Week 4:

- Final preparations
- Confirm attendees
- Review logistics
- Pray together
- Final team meeting

Outcomes Month 2:

- ✓ Location secured
- ✓ Initial invitations sent
- ✓ Logistics planned
- ✓ First meeting ready

Month 3: Pre-Launch and Final Prep

Week 1:

- Final invitations

- Confirm attendance numbers
- Prepare teaching
- Plan worship
- Final logistics check

Week 2:

- Setup day (if applicable)
- Arrange materials
- Test audio/logistics
- Final walkthrough
- Team meeting and prayer

Week 3:

- Manage last-minute details
- Confirm core team roles
- Final prayer and prep
- Nervousness and excitement
- Trust in God's leading

Week 4: LAUNCH WEEK

- Final confirmations
- Prayer and fasting
- Deep breath
- Trust God

Outcomes Month 3:

- ✓ All logistics ready
- ✓ People confirmed
- ✓ Team prepared
- ✓ Ready to launch

3.2 Launch Phase (Month 4)**Launch Week****Before Launch Day:**

- Prayer and fasting
- Team arrives early
- Setup complete
- Music/worship ready

- Teaching prepared

Launch Day — Hour by Hour

30 Minutes Before:

- Door open and welcoming
- Name tags available
- Coffee/refreshments ready
- Greeters in place
- Worship team ready

At Start Time:

- Brief welcome
- Icebreaker activity (10 minutes)
- Worship/prayer (15 minutes)
- Teaching (20–30 minutes)
- Group discussion (15 minutes)
- Prayer requests and prayer (10 minutes)
- Fellowship/food (15 minutes)

After Meeting:

- Help people leave
- Collect contact info
- Thank people for coming
- Invite to next meeting
- Follow up via text/email

That Night — Core Team Debrief:

- What went well?
- What was challenging?
- Feedback?
- Adjustments for next week?
- Prayer for attendees
- Celebrate God's faithfulness

First Month

Week 1 (Launch):

- Execute perfectly planned launch
- Expect nerves and imperfections

- God shows up despite our mistakes
- People decide to return or not

Week 2:

- Follow up with all attendees
- Personal phone calls/texts
- Invite back
- Answer questions
- Build relationships

Week 3:

- Second meeting
- People returning = success
- New rhythm established
- Relationships deepening
- Community forming

Week 4:

- Evaluate first month
- What's working?
- What needs adjustment?
- Plan next month
- Cast vision for growth

3.3 Months 5–12: Establishing Rhythm

Months 5–6: Establishing Patterns

Establish consistent rhythm:

- Same meeting time
- Same location
- Predictable format
- Growing trust
- Building community

Focus on:

- Relationship building
- Discipleship
- Prayer
- Bible study

- Community service
- Evangelism training

Milestones:

- Reach 15–20 consistent members
- 2–3 new believers
- Leadership team functioning
- Clear culture emerging
- Growth trajectory visible

Months 7–9: Expansion**Expand offerings:**

- Small groups mid-week (optional)
- Service projects
- Outreach events
- Social gatherings
- Mentoring relationships

Evaluate:

- Core values living out?
- Disciples multiplying?
- Leaders developing?
- New believers maturing?
- Community impact happening?

Adjust if needed:

- Teaching approach
- Meeting format
- Meeting length
- Location (if too crowded)
- Leadership structure

Months 10–12: Planning for Year 2**Year 1 evaluation:**

- What God did?
- What succeeded?
- What challenged you?
- How did people change?

- What do you celebrate?

Year 2 planning:

- Growth goals
- Leadership development
- Possible plant?
- New initiatives?
- Sustaining health?
- Multiplication plans?

PART 4 — OPERATIONS AND PRACTICES

4.1 Meeting Structure and Flow

Suggested Meeting Format (90 Minutes)

Welcome and Icebreaker (10 minutes)

- Greet people warmly
- Fun icebreaker question
- Relational connection
- Sets tone
- Everyone participates

Worship/Prayer (15 minutes)

- Music or prayer focus
- Vocal worship or quiet prayer
- Spiritual atmosphere
- Hearts opened
- Connect to God

Teaching/Word (25–30 minutes)

- Bible teaching
- Book study, or verse-by-verse
- Engaging, applicable
- Leave time for questions
- Not preachy

Discussion/Application (20 minutes)

- Break into smaller groups
- Discuss passage
- Share insights
- Apply to life
- Ask questions

Prayer Requests and Prayer (10 minutes)

- Share requests
- Pray for each other
- Intercessory prayer
- Ministry time

- Spiritual atmosphere

Fellowship/Food (15 minutes)

- Informal time
- Build relationships
- Deeper conversations
- Laughter and connection
- Set foundation for community

Total Time: 90–105 minutes

Variations by Purpose

Teaching-Heavy Format:

- Longer teaching (35–40 minutes)
- Shorter discussion (10–15 minutes)
- Good for in-depth study
- Suited to teaching-oriented leader

Discussion-Heavy Format:

- Shorter teaching (15–20 minutes)
- Longer discussion (25–30 minutes)
- Good for participation
- Suited to facilitative leader

Prayer-Focused Format:

- Teaching (20 minutes)
- Extended prayer (30–40 minutes)
- Shorter discussion
- Ministry time emphasis

Missional Format:

- Teaching (20 minutes)
- Discussion (15 minutes)
- Service project or outreach (30–40 minutes)
- Integration of action

4.2 Curriculum and Teaching

Curriculum Options

Option 1: Book of the Bible

- Read one book systematically
- Verse by verse or chapter by chapter
- Deep understanding
- 3–6 months per book
- Good for building foundation

Option 2: Topical Studies

- Themes (prayer, faith, forgiveness, love)
- Related passages
- Practical application
- 4–8 weeks per topic
- Good for addressing needs

Option 3: Character Studies

- Biblical characters (Moses, David, Paul, Peter)
- Life lessons
- Relational learning
- 4–6 weeks per character
- Engaging format

Option 4: Inductive Study

- Systematic observation
- Deep interpretation
- Personal application
- Self-directed learning
- Very effective

Option 5: Curriculum

- Pre-prepared materials
- Discussion guides
- Consistency
- Less prep
- Various publishers (RightNow Media, Bible Study Fellowship, etc.)

My Recommendation: Mix formats. Book of Bible (12 weeks) + topical studies (8 weeks) + character studies (8 weeks) = 28 weeks. Repeat, adjust.

Teaching Tips

Preparation:

- Study passage thoroughly

- Know main point
- Prepare discussion questions
- Anticipate questions
- Pray over content

Teaching Delivery:

- Start with engaging question
- Make it relatable
- Use stories/examples
- Invite participation
- Pause for reflection
- Don't rush

Discussion Facilitation:

- Ask questions (don't tell answers)
- Wait for responses
- Affirm good thoughts
- Gently correct error
- Draw out quieter people
- Keep focused
- Manage dominators

4.3 Spiritual Practices

Prayer Practices**Corporate Prayer:**

- Begin/end meetings in prayer
- Prayer requests and intercession
- Prayer walks in community
- Prayer vigils
- Fasting days

Personal Prayer:

- Encourage daily prayer
- Provide prayer guides
- Prayer journals
- Scripture meditation
- Prayer partnerships

Prayer Groups:

- Prayer meetings before church
- Prayer walking
- Prayer chains
- 24-hour prayer watches
- Prayer and fasting groups

Worship and Praise**Worship Expressions:**

- Music worship (if someone leads)
- Vocal worship
- Silent worship
- Responsive reading
- Hymn singing
- Spoken prayer as worship

Creating Atmosphere:

- Candles (if appropriate)
- Music (recorded or live)
- Incense (if comfortable)
- Visual focus (cross, nature)
- Quiet/peaceful environment
- Heart openness

Communion/The Lord's Supper**Frequency:**

- Monthly
- Quarterly
- As you sense God's leading
- Regular rhythm

Format:

- Brief teaching on meaning
- Self-reflection time
- Symbols (bread/cracker, juice/wine)
- Shared prayer
- Participation
- Reverent tone

Theological Understanding:

- Remembrance of Christ's sacrifice
- Covenant renewal
- Spiritual nourishment
- Communion with God and each other

PART 5 — TROUBLESHOOTING

5.1 Common Challenges

Challenge 1: Declining Attendance

Problem: People stop coming

Causes:

- Life got busy (jobs, moves, new situations)
- Felt unwelcomed or uncomfortable
- Conflicts with others
- Didn't sense community
- Other church/activities took priority
- Lost touch

Solutions:

- Personal outreach (phone calls, texts)
- Address any concerns directly
- Clarify what they're experiencing
- Invite them back warmly
- Remove obstacles if possible
- Accept some natural attrition
- Focus on those who are engaged

Challenge 2: Conflict Between Members

Problem: People have conflict

Causes:

- Personality clashes
- Theological disagreement
- Hurt feelings
- Poor communication
- Unmet expectations
- Leadership missteps

Solutions:

- Address early (don't let it fester)
- Meet individually first

- Listen fully to both sides
- Find common ground
- Facilitate reconciliation
- Set expectations for community
- Model forgiveness
- Take serious conflicts to leadership

Challenge 3: Dominant Personalities

Problem: One or two people dominate discussions

Causes:

- Naturally extroverted
- Well-informed
- Seeking validation
- Lack of awareness
- Never had boundaries set

Solutions:

- Talk privately and kindly
- Explain impact
- Set expectations (“Let’s hear from others”)
- Direct questions to quieter people
- Thank for input; ask others
- Gently interrupt if needed
- Seat differently
- Appreciate their passion; guide it

Challenge 4: Financial Challenges

Problem: Struggling to pay expenses

Causes:

- Unexpected costs
- No budget created
- No giving system
- Too many activities
- Leader paying personally

Solutions:

- Create simple budget

- Set giving expectations
- Reduce expenses
- Have fundraisers if needed
- Ask for volunteers to donate space
- Reduce activities
- Be transparent about needs

Challenge 5: Leadership Burnout

Problem: Lead pastor/core team exhausted

Causes:

- Too much responsibility
- Not sharing workload
- Meeting too often
- No boundaries
- Personal life neglected
- Spiritual vitality drained

Solutions:

- Delegate more
- Share leadership
- Reduce meeting frequency
- Take breaks
- Prayer/spiritual renewal
- Family time priority
- Consider stepping back temporarily
- Build in sabbath rhythm

Challenge 6: Theological Disagreement

Problem: Different beliefs emerging

Causes:

- Different backgrounds
- Different Bible interpretations
- Spiritual formation differences
- Different traditions

Solutions:

- Clarify core beliefs upfront

- Have open discussions
- Respect differences where possible
- Set boundaries on essentials
- Love those who disagree
- Focus on Jesus
- Some may leave (that's okay)
- Maintain unity where you can

Challenge 7: Not Growing

Problem: Stuck at same size for long time

Causes:

- No one inviting friends
- Not welcoming to newcomers
- Leadership not casting vision
- Not healthy enough to grow
- Closed group mentally
- No outreach

Solutions:

- Evaluate health (attendance, joy, unity?)
- Refocus on outreach/invitations
- Train people to invite
- Improve welcome experience
- Cast vision for growth
- Address health issues
- Sometimes smaller is better (re-evaluate goals)

5.2 Problem-Solving Framework

Step-by-Step Problem-Solving

Step 1: Define the Problem

- What specifically is happening?
- When did it start?
- Who is affected?
- What's the impact?
- How urgent is it?

Step 2: Understand Root Cause

- Why is this happening?
- What led to this?
- Multiple causes?
- Recent change?
- Person issue or systems issue?

Step 3: Consider Options

- What are possible solutions?
- What have others done?
- What fits your context?
- What's most likely to work?
- What's most loving approach?

Step 4: Get Input

- Ask affected people
- Ask leadership team
- Ask wise counsel
- Ask God in prayer
- Get perspective

Step 5: Make Decision

- Choose best option
- Plan implementation
- Communicate clearly
- Get buy-in
- Set expectations

Step 6: Implement

- Take action
- Follow through
- Communicate progress
- Adjust if needed
- Stay committed

Step 7: Evaluate

- Did it work?
- What changed?
- What's next?
- Celebrate progress

- Learn for next time

PART 6 — GROWTH STRATEGIES

6.1 Healthy Growth

Growth vs. Health

Growth Alone = Problem

- More people but less community
- More chaos
- Less discipleship
- Relationships lost
- Burnout
- Diluted vision

Health Alone = Limitation

- Tight community
- Deep relationships
- But limited impact
- Smaller influence
- Fewer disciples
- Missing God's call to grow

Growth + Health = Ideal

- More people AND deep community
- Disciples multiplying
- Vision expanding
- Impact increasing
- Sustainable movement
- God's kingdom advancing

Healthy Growth Principles

Principle 1: Leadership Development First

- Don't grow faster than leaders can handle
- Develop leaders before adding people
- Leadership > attendance
- Quality over quantity
- Build foundation first

Principle 2: Community Before Crowd

- Build real relationships
- Know people by name
- Invest in community
- Before big growth
- Relational foundation first

Principle 3: Vision Clarity First

- Know why you're growing
- What's the goal?
- Where are you headed?
- What does success look like?
- Shared vision before growth

Principle 4: Multiplication Mindset

- Think about planting new groups
- Plan for division
- Develop leaders for new plants
- Not just bigger, but multiplying
- Always training next generation

Growth Targets

Year 1:

- 15–25 regular attendees
- 2–3 new believers
- 2–3 potential new leaders identified
- Established rhythm
- Community forming

Year 2:

- 25–35 regular attendees
- 5–8 new believers
- 5–7 new leaders emerging
- 1–2 leadership positions filled
- Growth trajectory clear

Year 3:

- 35–50+ attendees OR
- Plant second group (15–20 in original, 10–15 in new)
- 8–12 new believers

- 8–10 trained leaders
- Multiplication beginning
- Clear growth path

6.2 Outreach and Evangelism

Outreach Strategy

Build Community Presence:

Service Projects:

- Feed hungry
- Community clean-up
- Clothing drive
- Prison ministry
- Homeless outreach
- Environmental service

Community Events:

- Neighborhood picnic
- Block party
- Movie night (community invited)
- Sports league
- Game night
- Concerts

Relational Outreach:

- Train members to share faith
- One-on-one conversations
- Living gospel through relationships
- Long-term friendships
- Organic evangelism
- Invitations to church

Digital Presence:

- Website (kylelauriano.com model)
- Social media
- Facebook group
- Email list
- YouTube presence

- Easy to find online

Evangelism Training

Train Your People:

- Share personal testimony
- Know the Gospel clearly
- Listen to others' stories
- Answer common questions
- Invite authentically
- Follow up naturally
- Disciple new believers

Resources:

- Share gospel materials (Romans Road, etc.)
- Role-play conversations
- Discuss common objections
- Monthly evangelism training
- Living example

PART 7 — MULTIPLICATION STRATEGY

7.1 Planning to Plant

When to Plant

Signs You're Ready:

- Healthy original group (strong community, clear culture)
- Multiple potential leaders identified
- Growth plateau (too crowded or new group starting)
- Leadership team agrees
- Prayer and confirmation
- Resources available
- Clear vision for new plant

Not Ready If:

- Unhealthy conflicts
- Leadership not aligned
- No trained leaders
- Core team overwhelmed
- No vision for multiplication
- Forced by size (not by design)

How to Transition

Step 1: Cast Vision (Months 6–12)

- Start talking about multiplication
- Frame as exciting, not sad
- Show biblical model
- Build excitement
- Begin identifying who might lead new group

Step 2: Identify New Leader (Months 9–15)

- Recruit lead planter for new group
- Mentor them intensively
- Give them responsibility
- Prepare them
- Build their confidence

Step 3: Identify Core Team (Months 12–18)

- Identify 3–5 people to transition to new group
- Pray for unity
- Explain the vision
- Make it feel like an honor
- Build excitement

Step 4: Transition (Month 18–24)

- New group starts
- Original group continues
- Maintain connection
- Celebrate both
- Original leader gives oversight

Step 5: Support New Plant (Months 25–36)

- Mentor new leader
- Share resources
- Solve problems together
- Encourage
- Let them lead
- Celebrate victories

Multiple Plants

When Original Group Multiplies Multiple Times:

Generation 1: Original group (25–40 people)

- Plant splits into 2 groups of 15–20 each

Generation 2: Two original groups

- Each plant again (now 4 groups)

Generation 3: Four groups

- Continue multiplying pattern

Result After 3 Years:

- 4–8 house churches
- 60–100+ disciples
- Multiple leaders
- Multiplying movement
- Kingdom impact

7.2 Network Building

Multiple Churches

Once you have multiple groups:

Unified Identity:

- All part of same network
- Shared values and vision
- Common name (The House Church Network, etc.)
- Unified website

Shared Resources:

- Teaching materials
- Leadership training
- Worship music
- Prayer meetings
- Events

Leadership Team:

- Leaders from each group
- Monthly leadership meetings
- Aligned direction
- Shared decision-making
- Mutual accountability

Network Events:

- Quarterly gatherings (all churches together)
- Annual conference or retreat
- Baptism celebrations
- Communion services
- Prayer meetings

PART 8 — FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

8.1 Simple Budget

Budget Framework

Monthly Expenses (Realistic):

Fixed Costs:

- Location rental: \$0–500 (or free if home)
- Supplies (coffee, snacks): \$50–100
- Curriculum/materials: \$25–50
- Miscellaneous: \$25–50
- **Total:** \$100–700/month

Optional Expenses:

- Worship equipment: \$50–100
- Technology/website: \$10–50
- Events/outreach: \$100–300
- Benevolence/missions: \$200+
- Leadership training: \$50–100

Total Possible Range: \$100–1,200+/month

Funding Models

Model 1: No Formal Giving

- Members donate when prompted
- Covered as needs arise
- Flexible
- Can be unpredictable

Model 2: Suggested Giving

- Suggest \$10–20/week per person
- Optional, not required
- Honors participation
- Covers basic expenses
- Simple structure

Model 3: Percentage Giving

- Members give percentage of income

- Traditional model
- Sustainable
- Can feel formal
- Biblical principle (tithe, offering)

Model 4: Community Fund

- Pass around offering plate
- Anonymous giving
- Voluntary participation
- Built into meeting
- Respectful of all income levels

Model 5: Event-Based Fundraising

- Potluck donations
- Bake sales
- Car wash
- Fellowship event donation
- One-time fundraising

Recommendation: Combination of models

- Regular giving box (Model 4)
- Annual commitment conversation (Model 2)
- Occasional fundraising events
- Transparent about needs

Financial Transparency

Build Trust:

- Share budget with group
- Show what money is used for
- Discuss financial decisions
- Be honest about needs
- Never hide finances
- Report periodically

8.2 Stewardship

Wise Stewardship

Principle 1: Live Below Means

- Don't overspend
- Be frugal
- Use what you have
- Borrow/share
- Maximize resources

Principle 2: Meet Needs First

- Core expenses (location, materials)
- Before extras
- Prioritize mission
- Community needs first

Principle 3: Generosity

- Give to those in need
- Benevolence fund
- Missions giving
- Community service
- Generosity mindset

Principle 4: Future Planning

- Save for growth
- Plan for new plant
- Build reserves
- Long-term thinking
- Sustainability

PART 9 — COMMON CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

9.1 Advanced Challenges

Challenge 1: Theological Drift

Problem: Group gradually moving away from biblical truth

Solutions:

- Regular doctrinal teaching
- Clear statement of faith
- Correction when needed
- Leadership alignment
- Accountability

Challenge 2: Leader Transition

Problem: Lead planter leaves or can't continue

Solutions:

- Develop backup leaders
- Succession plan
- Multiple leaders from start
- Leadership documentation
- Smooth transition process

Challenge 3: Location Changes

Problem: Need to move locations

Solutions:

- Scout new locations early
- Give notice before moving
- Keep community involved
- Communicate clearly
- Minimize disruption

Challenge 4: External Criticism

Problem: Critics from established churches or denomination

Solutions:

- Stay humble

- Build relationships with traditional churches
- Show fruit
- Be kind
- Explain your model
- Don't be defensive
- Let results speak

Challenge 5: Losing Vision

Problem: Drift from original purpose

Solutions:

- Regularly review vision
- Realign if needed
- Refresh core values
- Celebrate original purpose
- Renew commitment
- Course corrections as needed

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Launch Checklist

6 Months Before Launch

- ✓ Prayer and clarification
- ✓ Vision written
- ✓ Core team identified
- ✓ Leadership roles defined
- ✓ Prayer rhythm established

3 Months Before Launch

- ✓ Location secured
- ✓ Meeting time decided
- ✓ Curriculum chosen
- ✓ First 15–20 people identified
- ✓ Invitations sent
- ✓ Initial attendees confirmed

1 Month Before Launch

- ✓ All logistics finalized
- ✓ Teaching prepared
- ✓ Materials printed
- ✓ Core team fully prepared
- ✓ Prayer intensified

Launch Week

- ✓ Setup complete
- ✓ All materials ready
- ✓ People confirmed
- ✓ Team prayer and fasting
- ✓ Ready to launch

First Month

- ✓ Launch meeting complete
- ✓ Follow-up done
- ✓ Second meeting held
- ✓ Community forming

- ✓ Rhythm establishing

Appendix B: First Meeting Agenda

Welcome & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Welcome everyone warmly. Ask icebreaker question: “What’s one thing you’re excited about these days?”

Worship/Prayer (15 minutes)

Play worship music or lead in prayer. Set spiritual tone.

Teaching (25 minutes)

Teach first passage. Make engaging, not overwhelming. Leave time for questions.

Discussion (15 minutes)

Small group discussion: “What stood out to you? How does this apply to your life?”

Prayer (10 minutes)

Prayer requests. Pray for each other.

Fellowship (15 minutes)

Food, coffee, conversation. Build relationships.

Appendix C: Sample Vision Statement

“We are planting a house church to make disciples among our neighborhood through authentic community and relational evangelism, resulting in transformed lives and multiplying disciples who impact our city for Christ.”

Appendix D: Leadership Development Plan

Year 1: Identify & Invest

- Monthly mentoring meetings
- Give increasing responsibility
- Teach biblical leadership
- Model servant leadership
- Build confidence

Year 2: Develop & Deploy

- Formal leadership role
- Leadership training
- Give authority
- Handle some decisions
- Lead small groups

Year 3: Release & Multiply

- Full leadership responsibility
- Prepare to plant new church
- Train their own leaders
- Vision casting
- Launch new group

Appendix E: Troubleshooting Decision Tree

Is attendance declining?

- **YES:** Reach out personally, address concerns
- **NO:** Continue current path

Is there conflict?

- **YES:** Address early, facilitate reconciliation
- **NO:** Continue building community

Are leaders developing?

- **YES:** Begin multiplication planning
- **NO:** Invest more in leadership development

Is spiritual health strong?

- **YES:** Consider growth strategies
- **NO:** Return to discipleship focus

Appendix F: Resources

Books on House Churches:

- “Viral Churches” — Nelson Searcy
- “Planting Houses of Hope” — Robert Logan
- “Simple Church” — Thom Rainer
- “House Church Movement” — Various authors

Online Resources:

- HouseChurch.com
- HousechurchesNow.com
- SimpleChurches.net
- InterServe

Training:

- Church Planting Bootcamps
- Multiplication Network
- 3DM Resources

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