

# How to start and run a simple church meeting

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## Preparing to start a Simple Church Meeting

1. **Gather:** Agree on a time (30 mins to 1 hr) and location (home, workplace, restaurant, park, coffee shop, or any other place where people can naturally gather) as a couple, a family, a group of loved ones, or friends for the purpose of worshipping God in a simple way.
2. **Prepare to help everyone participate:** In a simple church meeting, all adults and children participate actively in worship in various ways. Everyone discovers his/her different spiritual gifts, and children learn that they are important members of the church, even if their part is brief or unspoken.

## Running a Simple Church Meeting

### 1. Look Back (10-15 mins)

- a. **CARE:** Take turn to share thanksgiving items.
- b. **PRAY:** Pray for specific needs. And lay hands on any person who is sick and release healing onto that person.

### 2. Look Up (15-25 mins)

- a. **Communion:** Experience Jesus' presence together through the communion.
  - i. Use one of the most common kinds of food in a meal in your culture (e.g. rice, bread, tortilla, biscuit, etc.) and a drink (e.g. juice, tea, soda, water, etc.) as elements of the communion.
  - ii. Have the head of the household or the leader of this church explain the meaning of the communion:
    1. The food: This is Jesus' body. He sacrificed his body because he loves us so much. And through his sacrifice we now have new lives in Him. When we eat this food, we are taking in his love again.
    2. The drink: This is Jesus' blood. His blood has the power to wash away our sins and heal our body. When we drink this, we are experiencing his cleansing and healing right now.

- b. **Bible:** The better way for people to learn is by dialogue; new leaders should not try to preach sermons. Sit in a circle so that all can see each other's faces.
  - i. **Read a story of Jesus, a Bible story, or a passage of the Bible** and give adults and children specific roles to tell or illustrate the bible stories. For example,
    - 1. Help younger ones prepare brief participations such as to repeat or recite Bible verses.
    - 2. Draw pictures and explain their spiritual meaning to the adults.
    - 3. Have small children do actions that illustrate the Bible stories.
    - 4. Let younger tots add movements while an older child or adult narrates a Bible story. For example, after mentioning something significant in a story, the narrator tells the tots, "You are trees now, and the Bible says you clap your hands. Let us hear you!" (Clap to prompt the children.)
  - ii. **Discuss:**
    - 1. What have you learned about Jesus/God from the story?
    - 2. What do you think God is speaking to you through this story/passage right now?

### 3. Look forward (10-20 mins)

- a. Pray, individually, before making commitments; make specific commitments; write commitments down to check in next meeting
  - i. **"Do"**: What does God want you to obey from this story? (If there is any seeker in the group, ask "Are you ready to follow Jesus today?")
  - ii. **"Share"**: Who can you bless, show Jesus' love, share your testimony or this story with in the next 7 days?