

CGN

connect group notes

**NO PLACE
LIKE HOME**

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FOR THE FACILITATOR

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end.

TOPIC : No Place like home.

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MEDITATION TIME:

(NOTE TO FACILITATORS: The first part of the notes is practical meditation on the passages of scripture using the basic questions below to guide you. You may find that this exercise takes

up all the time and you don't get to the rest of the questions and notes - that's ok. The real goal is to get people practicing chewing on scripture together)

**Take time to read the passages below
(suggest you read one verse each in a circle)
and then meditate on them as a group using
the questions below to guide you:**

Luke 10:38-42

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

41 “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one.[f] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Acts 16:11-15

11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. 12 From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district[a] of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. 15 When she and the

members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

MEDITATION QUESTIONS:

- What verse or phrase stood out to you the most (your underline or highlight moment)
- What does that highlight mean to you - what do you think the Holy Spirit is saying?
- Why do you think the Holy Spirit is highlighting this verse to you at this time in your life?

GOING DEEPER:

Question 1: What is the common theme that stands out to you from these two passages?

Small groups and the home are the heartbeat of the church. Like a heartbeat that is not visible yet critical to life, so are small groups a crucial part of church life. We need to be convinced that God uses homes to transform lives.

Examples in the scriptures of what happened in homes where God made His presence known:

- There was healing in homes
- Restoration in homes
- Revival in homes
- People were comforted in homes
- Jesus asked to use people's homes

Maybe he is wanting to use your home to make his heartbeat known.

TIME TO DISCUSS:

Question 2: What is possibly hindering you from opening up your home to be used for Jesus and His Kingdom?

Let's look briefly at what happened in the homes mentioned above and how we should let our homes do likewise.

Lk 10:38-42 - Home of Martha

Jesus loved visiting their home - it refreshed him. It was a place of explaining where Jesus revisited what had been preached and explained more in depth at the table.

The home was a place where they could have encounters with God - Jesus comforted Mary and Marthe and healed Lazarus. God wants to move in our homes. The Holy Spirit was first poured out in homes.

We see further with Mary Magdalene that the home was a place for expression of faith - she poured out perfume on Jesus in a home.

Acts 16:11-15 - Home of Lydia

When hearts are opened to Jesus our homes should be opened to others as Lydia's was. Her home was a place for evangelism, she desired to see people brought into her home to meet Jesus.

She was enthusiastic about church and wanted them to meet in her house. She was flexible so that all types of people could be included in her home. A home should be a space for every type of person.

Ps 68 - God the warrior who settles the lonely in homes.

Place of belonging, knowing, invitation and hospitality where people feel appreciated, cared for and not fixed. Where people find purpose not duty.

Lk 19:1-10 - Home of Zacchaeus

This is a crazy story where Jesus invites himself into the home of a most unlikely person. But Zacchaeus is a great representative:

Represents a once off moment - you'll never know when you are someone's once off moment.

Represents people with crazy, wordily reputations that we can look at and easily write them off.

Represents those distracted - by his wealth - what distracts you?

Represents those who are seeking - Many are seeking the reality about Jesus

Represents those who have obstacles that keep us from faith - Zacchaeus was short, what's your struggle?

The solution Jesus gave to all of these challenges was a conversation and community in a home - Zac didn't need a sermon but a conversation - conversations trump sermons

Question 3: What have you found being part of a home, small group environment does for you?

ACTION STEP

Jesus wants you to grow spiritually. To go deeper, to grow from milk to meat. This is most easily achieved in homes, not in a corporate meeting.

Jesus used questions to help people grow. He asked 307 questions of others. He was asked 183 questions by others, but he only answered 3.

That should tell us something about interacting with people. Small group environments are the place to ask questions.

- Have you opened your house (your heart) to Jesus? Open hearts open homes.
- Will you take a step towards the heart of the church?