# Start Churches Easily

**Anchor command**. “W*hatever house you enter, … if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on him. … And remain in the same house.” Luke 10:5-7*

**Anchor** **promise**: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them.” *Matthew 18:20*

**Anchor** **story**. Lydia. Acts 16:11-15, 40.

**Anchor** **verse**: “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it!” *Matthew 16:18*

**Learning** **goals.** Learners will know Jesus’ instructions for evangelizing households

**Growth goals.** Learners will feel confident in their authority to plant tiny, new churches.

**Skill goal.**Learners will take steps to help new gatherings become house churches.

**Outcome goal**. Learners will multiply churches that love Jesus and obey his commandments.

**Basic Study**

**1.**Find in **Luke 10:5-9** Jesus’ instructions to his apostles, on how to enter homes.

* What kind individuals should you look for?   
  (*Answer:* a ‘son of peace,’ that is, one who welcomes you to stay a while without dispute.)
* What should you do in their home? (*Answer:* Heal the sick and tell the Good News. Let them invite others to come for healing and to hear the Good News.)

**2.**Find in **Acts 16:11-15, 40** how the apostles started a new church in the home of a new believer.

* How long would the apostles stay in that town? (*Answer:* a few days.*)*
* How did the apostles recognize a ‘person of peace’?   
  (*Answer:* Lydia was reverent towards God and proved willing to listen to the apostles.)
* Where did the apostles stay for the next few days? (*Answer:* At Lydia’s house.)
* What did the apostles to with Lydia’s household?   
  (*Answer:* They baptized her and her household.)
* What does the Bible call Lydia, her household and any other new believers?   
  (*Answer:* “the brothers,” that is, a new, little house church.)



**3. Plan with co-workers activities to do this week.** Some possible activities include the following:

* Take some believers on a walk, praying and seeking new persons of peace.
* Ask believers to name persons of peace in whose home they could pray for others’ needs and share the Good News about Jesus.
* Arrange with seekers and new believers to invite friends and family to come for prayer and to hear the Good News.
* Lead new believers and their household to be baptized (if possible) and start a new little church in their home.
* Teach part of this study to existing house churches. Pray with them that the Lord will allow them to start new house churches.

**4. Plan with coworkers the upcoming worship time.**

* Lead believers through this study. You may have to plan to do parts of this study over several weeks.
* Form small groups and pray to the Lord to give them opportunities to start new house churches.
* Celebrate the Lord’s Supper in tiny groups in a way that they could do so in others’ homes. See Paul-Timothy study #105.

**Advanced Study**

**1. Discover from Matthew three promises of Jesus for those who start new churches.**

Find in **Matthew 16:18-20 something** that Jesus promised to do, and something that Peter was to do. (*Answer:* Jesus will build his church. Jesus gave to Peter “keys” with authority to open the Kingdom of heaven.)

Find in **Matthew 18:18-20 something** that Jesus promised to do, and something that the apostles were to do. (*Answer:* Jesus would be present where believers gather in his name. The apostles were to pray with the same authority that Jesus had given to Peter.)

Find in **Matthew 28:18-20 something** that Jesus promised to do, and something that the apostles were to do. (*Answer:* Jesus would remain present with his followers till the end of the age. His followers are to make obedient disciples everywhere.)

**2. Discover from Acts chapter 2 the steps the apostles took to start many new house churches.**

Find in **Acts 2:23-24, 32, 36** the main points of the message the apostles announced about Jesus. (*Answer:* Jesus is Lord and Messiah. Evil men killed him by crucifixion. God raised him back to life. Eye-witnesses saw these things happen.)

Find in **Acts 2:37-41** what the apostles did, in order to add new believers to their group. (*Answer:* They instructed everyone to repent and to be baptized, promising them forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. They then baptized them and added them.

Find in **Acts 2:42** four main activities of new churches. (*Answer:* (1) learn what the apostles taught about Jesus’ commandments; (2) share together to meet needs; (3) celebrate the Lord’s Supper; and (4) pray together.)

Find in **Acts 2:46** two kinds of locales in which new churches gathered. (*Answer:* (1) occasionally at temple, and (2) regularly in homes.)

**3. Memorize the following steps that the apostles took, in starting many new little churches.**

1. Announce the Good News about Jesus to any group who are willing to listen.  
   Acts 10:33; 1 Corinthians 15:1
2. Promise the forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit to those who want to be saved.  
   Luke 24:47-49; Acts 2:38
3. Baptize those who repent and welcome them into small gatherings.  
    Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41
4. Have each small gathering pray to the Lord Jesus, inviting him into their midst. Matthew 18:20; Revelation 3:20
5. Begin practising together the commandments of Jesus, including the Lord’s Supper.  
   Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:25
6. Inform each gathering of obedient disciples that they are a church by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philemon 1:2

**4. Plan with co-workers activities to do this week.** Some possible activities include the following:

* Start coaching believing heads of household and other leaders of small gatherings, in following the steps the apostles took in starting many new little churches.
* Plan a training seminar for those who start or lead small gatherings, in order to plan with them to make gatherings into little churches.
* Draw up a map of existing gatherings and house churches. Indicate on the map places where the Holy Spirit wants new gatherings and new house churches to start.

**4. Plan with coworkers the upcoming worship time.**

* Teach all or parts of this study. This may take several weeks.
* In big gatherings, form small groups to pray to the Lord to start new house churches, to pray for each other, and to celebrate the Lord’s Supper in a manner that fits small numbers.
* Show the map that you have drawn. Invite believers and seekers to start new gatherings that could soon become little churches.
* Offer to coach those who will follow your instruction in starting gatherings and churches.
* Memorize together this definition of a church: *“A church is the Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of believers who love him and obey his commandments.*