

# Church at Home, Home as a Church

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## Acts 2:46-47

46. And continuing with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they shared food with gladness and simplicity of heart,
47. praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

That was one of the most important characteristics of the Early Church.

**House to house** they were always together, sharing the Word of God and eating food together. They had everything in common and they enjoyed the favour of all the people around. Crowds and more crowds came to Jesus through their good testimony and also through their lifestyle.

## “Temple or Mountain?”

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman that God’s people should worship Him not only in the Temple or on the Mount but everywhere, in our house for example.

## John 4:20-23

20. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.
21. Jesus said to her, Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you shall neither worship the Father in this mountain nor yet at Jerusalem.
23. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such to worship Him.

## Examples of churches in homes

### 1. In Cornelius’ house:

Peter was invited to come to Cornelius’ house to explain everything about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He brought his whole family, servants and friends to his house to hear from Peter. When Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit came upon them and those who were hearing him received the Holy Spirit. So, Peter led to being baptized in the Name of Jesus also.

## Acts 10:24 & 44

24. And the next day they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.
44. While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those hearing the Word.

- As a Gentile, Cornelius ignored the segregation and called Peter
- Peter was the first missionary to take the Gospel to Gentiles
- The church in Caesarea was established in Cornelius’ house

### 2. In Mary’s house:

Peter was in prison and the Angel came and released him walking through the iron gates. When he was on the street, he went to Mary’s house where people were gathered together praying for Peter’s life.

## Acts 12:12

And thinking about it, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose last name was Mark; where many had gathered together to pray.

- Peter was released through that prayer in Mary’s house
- When we pray together, people receive freedom

- In unity God performs His miracles

### 3. In Lydia's house:

As soon as she accepted Jesus and was baptized, she opened her house to meet people and be together.

#### **Acts 16:15**

And when she was baptized, she and her household, she begged us, saying, If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay. And she constrained us.

When Paul and Silas were released from the prison they went to Lydia's house, because all the brothers and sisters were gathered there.

#### **Acts 16:40**

And going out from the prison, they entered into the house of Lydia. And seeing the brothers, they comforted them and departed.

- When people accept Jesus, they become hungry for more
- Where Jesus is, there is a suitable place for fellowship
- Lydia's house became a "meeting-point" for Christians

### 4. In Aquila & Priscilla's house:

Apollo was speechifying by knowledge and about the baptism of John. Aquila and Priscilla took him to their house and shared everything else concerning the Gospel and then he left them shaped to preach the Gospel.

#### **Acts 18:24-26**

24. And a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.

25. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in the spirit, he spoke and taught the things of the Lord diligently, knowing only the baptism of John.

26. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. And Aquila and Priscilla heard him, and they took him and expounded to him the way of God more perfectly.

- Apollo was prepared in knowledge, A&P prepared him in the Holy Spirit
- Because of A&P's ministry, he became more confident to preach the Gospel
- They responded immediately realising his need to know Jesus

Paul greets Priscilla and Aquila as partners working for Jesus Christ. He said: They risked their lives for me. Greetings also to the church that meets in their house.

#### **Romans 16:3-5**

3. Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my helpers in Christ Jesus,

4. who have laid down their own necks for my life; to whom not only I give thanks, but also the churches of the nations.

5. Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epenetus, who is the first-fruits of Achaia to Christ.

- Paul addressed his gratefulness for Aquila & Priscilla's lives
- They gave him support and had complicity in their ministry
- He also expressed his gratefulness to the church in their house