

Home Church Huddles

Home Churches are our primary place for disciple-making, community-building, and family-styled fellowship. This is where we live out some important aspects of the communal Christian life described in the New Testament. *Huddles* are smaller groups of 3-4 people within each Home Church that allow us to build more intimate, accountable, and energized disciple-making relationships.

Although Jesus poured his heart into training and equipping his twelve disciples, he also prioritised a closer relationship with three of his disciples in particular: Peter, James, and John (**Matthew 17:1; Mark 9:2; Mark 13:3; Mark 14:33; Luke 8:51; Luke 9:28**). Other helpful Huddle Scriptures include **Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Matthew 18:20; Galatians 6:2; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Hebrews 3:13; James 5:16**.

Huddles touch base in two ways: 1 – As part of the weekly Home Church meetings, Huddles have some time to connect and discuss the application of that week's teaching to their lives as well as pray for one another. 2 – Each week Huddles connect at least one other time outside of Home Church, in person or otherwise (phone, text, email, BBM, Facebook, etc.) to see how things are going and, if possible, dig deeper into what God is doing in each other's lives. Over time Huddles may want to do more life together and invest more time into study, discussion, accountability, and prayer, but that's up to you.

You might belong to a circle of friends who already function much like a "huddle". If that's the case, these questions might still be valuable for some of your discussions as friends. We also encourage you to either a) still join a Home Church Huddle as part of your Home Church experience (remember, Home Church is as much about contributing as it is about receiving), or b) let your elders and/or lead pastor know about your friendship huddle and talk about ways this unofficial huddle can still be connected to a Home Church.

Suggested Format

Huddles will vary in approach and style, but here are some recommendations: Always begin a Huddle by following up on prayer requests, confessions, or resolutions that were talked about last time you were together. Have you all done what you said you would do? If not, why not? How can you help each other accomplish what you resolve to do? Tie up loose ends, then move forward.

The suggested Huddle Questions in this document are here to serve you as a guideline. Sometimes Huddles will want to spend an hour or more together and will have the time to talk through many of these questions, follow meaningful "rabbit trails", and pray together. Sometimes Huddles will be challenged for time and when that is the case, you may wish to focus only on "The Basics".

Whenever someone confesses sin, remind each other of the forgiveness of Jesus (**1 John 1:5-10**) and the peace God gives us through the Gospel (**Romans 5:1 and 8:1**). Then offer your time and energy to help in practical ways.

Go For It!

Huddles can be intimidating, awkward, and inconvenient. At the same time, ongoing intimate accountability relationships can be the "missing link" in many people's spiritual development. Remember that you are investing in your Home Church Huddle to serve others, not for them to serve you. Your focus should be on what you can give, not what you can get. And, ironically, that's when you will get the most out of it.

Huddle Questions

The Basics

1. What do you sense God might be saying to you through this week's teaching?
2. What is something you can do to respond?
3. How can we help?

The Menu

Use these huddle questions as a menu – pick and choose one or more of these questions to help direct your conversations during huddle times. All the questions below should start with “Since the last time we talked...”

- How have you encountered Jesus, and what has he been challenging or encouraging you about through Scripture, people, or other ways?
- How much time have you spent with God, in Scripture reading, and prayer? How would you describe the quality of those times, and how they've contributed to your relationship with God?
- What has been your greatest area of temptation, struggle, or sin – and how can we help you overcome that?
- When have you served others and loved well (or missed opportunities to do so), including serving your church, investing time in your family, helping your friends, showing kindness to strangers, and loving your enemies?
- Have you had a spiritual conversation with someone outside our church community – learning about their beliefs and sharing your own?
- Is there anyone you need to ask forgiveness from, or offer forgiveness to? What is holding you back from doing that?
- Where are you feeling like you are doing well in following the teaching of Jesus in your speech and actions? Where have you struggled?
- How have you actively sought to be a peacemaker (someone who is helping to create peace), in your own conflicts or disputes, or in those around you?
- How have you handled your finances (shopping, saving, giving, investing) and your possessions (using, sharing, loaning, giving away) in ways that reflect the priorities of the Kingdom of Christ?
- Are there any distractions (media, hobbies, pursuits) that draw too much time and energy away from the loving life you are called to live?
- Is there anything we haven't talked about yet (spiritual, physical, emotional, or relational) that you want to surrender to God in your journey as a growing, thriving Christ-centred disciple?