

# They Devoted Themselves to the Breaking of Bread

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Act 2:42 ESV And they **devoted** themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to **the breaking of bread** and the prayers...

Nearly every use of the verbiage "**breaking bread**" in the scriptures has to do with normal meals. (Mar 6:41, Luk 24:28-30, Act 20:7-11, Act 27:34-35)

**Something amazing happens when we break bread together**...we open our lives to one another. When we sit at the table and break bread we share our **time**, we give of our **resources**, we open our **homes**, we give up our **privacy**, we expose our **hearts**, and we engage with others...The daily activity in the homes of the early church such as the hospitality, the teaching of the word, the prayer, the meeting of needs and the ministry that took place was like a "sourdough starter" for church...***His Church is not a building or a program***, it is people called together BY HIM, to live together IN HIM, and to carry out the mission WITH HIM.

**The church - the people attended temple together, and they broke bread in homes - this is church**

- Act 2:46-47 ESV And day by day, **attending the temple together** and **breaking bread in their homes**, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their **number** *[GK Ekklesia]* day by day those who were being saved.
- Act 8:3 ESV But Saul was **ravaging the church**, and **entering house after house**, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

## Houses in the city Map

**Is there a need for churches to meet in homes?** (what if covid hits again? What about if persecution comes? What about stuff like Ukraine - our friends who live as missionaries in Ukraine have opened their homes to serve refugees) - **But what if we did it just because it is biblical?**

- Alliance Population 22,322
- "Nones" 53% - 11,831
- Unininvitable 60% of "nones" 7,098
- Conventional way of inviting them to church may not work - We must go to them
- If we could reach 10% of these 710 ( who were reaching their relational network - a tipping point
- if we had house churches with average 10 people we need 71 in Alliance

**What would happen if there was a house or 2 or 3 on every street functioning as a church?**

**What if these churches were open for business every day of the week?**

**What if every home was a mission?**

## What if Jesus left us an example

He used houses to teach, to heal, to correct, to train his disciples and to eat together

**Jesus into the house of Zaccheus - leading to his salvation**

- Luk 19:5-10 ESV And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and **come down, for I must stay at your house** *[oikos physical building]* **today.**" 6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "**He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.**" 8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." 9 And Jesus said to him, "**Today salvation has come to this house.** *[oikos family / household]* since he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

### **Jesus at Matthew's house - dinner to reach out to Matthew's oikos**

- Mar 2:14-16 ESV And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. 15 And **as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.** 16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "**Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?**"

### **Jesus reclined at the table in the house of Simon *the leper***

- Mat 26:6-8 ESV Now when Jesus was at Bethany **in the house of Simon the leper,** 7 a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head **as he reclined at table.** 8 And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste?"

### **Jesus reclined at the table of a Pharisee - a woman who was a sinner was saved**

- Luk 7:36-37 ESV One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and **he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.** 37 And behold, a woman of the city, **who was a sinner,** when she **learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house,** brought an alabaster flask of ointment,
- She felt comfortable to go to the house because Jesus was there
- Jesus used it to teach the Pharisee about love and forgiveness (vs 44)

### Summary

- Invite someone to your table - and make it a habit
- Invite the believer and build community
- Invite the sinner and let them hear the story of Jesus
- Consider if God would stir you to have a church in your neighborhood

<https://youtu.be/rKxIk6G7pME>