

6/13/84

HOW TO HAVE A HEALTHY HOME CHURCH MEETING

I. BEFORE - BE READY

- A. During the day, think about the meeting and pray for it; develop an attitude of readiness and alertness. Try to obtain from God an enthusiastic outlook. War with the devil in the area of your attitude and mind-set.
- B. If you are bringing a new person, contact known evangelists to help witness, and pray for the person. Contact the teacher if it would be helpful for him to know of the new person's background or situation.
- C. Set specific ministry goals: new people to talk to, new members to follow up, information to communicate to other workers or leaders, social things to invite people to, etc.
- D. Prepare something to share: from your walk or study that week, or from meditating on the passage to be taught that night.
- E. If new members need rides, call and offer them one.
- F. Come early and make new people feel comfortable, encourage members who are tired, help set up the room, etc.

II. DURING - BE EDIFYING (I Cor. 14:26)

- A. Pay attention - don't whisper to friends or "cut-up".
- B. Listen to the teaching carefully and responsively; pray for the teacher while he/she teaches; take notes; write down something to share that strikes you during the teaching.
- C. Be ready to share if there is a lull, or to redirect after unedifying sharing.
 - a. Don't share complicated and unresolved problems, or ask controversial and academic questions (these are better dealt with outside the meeting).
- D. Avoid over-used phrases, and Xenos jargon. It may be best to present your point as a question. Avoid repetitive comments such as "this teaching really spoke to me..." or "speak into my life..." Too many of these kinds of comments create the impression that everyone has been planted in the audience.
- E. Avoid demonstrating too much Bible knowledge, because this will intimidate the new people, causing them to fear sharing.
- F. Note people who seem confused, upset, etc., plan to talk with them afterwards.

G. Sing enthusiastically and reverently to the Lord; suggest songs that are conducive to the mood of the teaching and meeting; avoid merely calling out "favorites". In those HC's where suggestions are not called for, this point is moot.

H. Pray silently as others pray aloud; "amen" genuine and edifying prayers; be ready to pray aloud. Speak up.

III. AFTER - BE EFFECTIVE

- A. New people take first priority; engage in friendly conversation; find out about their lives; discuss spiritual issues if possible (see "Meeting New People at Central Teaching" sheet); A serious conversation is usually preferable to joking around. However, here we must read the situation for appropriateness.
- B. Take care of new or needy home church members: comfort, advise, exhort, invite to dinner or other activity, answer questions, etc. Avoid inviting the same person out to several events at one time. Be sensitive to what the other members may be saying-- do not duplicate comments or invitations.
- C. After above is done, fellowship with fellow-workers, communicate important information, report on ministry tonight, etc.
- D. The HC should help the host clean up and re-arrange the house.

DON'T SHARE MINISTRY STORIES
LEADERS SHOULD SHARE