

Introduction

- Today's church differs significantly from the New Testament church and we need to understand the biblical model: combination of large and small gatherings
- "We need" The whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world"

1. Recap - the Biblical Pattern of House Churches

- Early church met primarily in homes (Acts 2:46, 5:42)
- Some Examples of New Testament house churches:
 - Day of Pentecost in a home (Acts 1:13, 2:1)
 - Mary's house prayer meeting (Acts 12:12)
 - Cornelius' home (Acts 10)
 - Philemon's house church (Philemon 1:2)
 - Lydia's home (Acts 16:40)
- The "One Another" Commands . Biblical commands requiring small group interaction:
 - Love one another (John 15:17), Be hospitable (1 Peter 4:9-10), Pray for one another (James 5:16), Comfort and edify one another (1 Thess 5:11), Share in worship and teaching (Col 3:16), Everyone contributes (1 Cor 14:26)

2. Priscilla and Aquila's Journey of ministry through house churches:

- They Started in Rome Moved to Corinth where they met Paul (Acts 18:2)
- Moved to Ephesus. Established a business and taught Apollos (Acts 18:26)
- They led house church in Ephesus (1 Cor 16:19)
- They returned to Rome and led a house church there (Romans 16:3-5)

3. The Ephesus Model - Big and Small Working Together

- Paul's approach in Ephesus (Acts 19:8-20):
 - Daily teaching in lecture hall of Tyrannus
 - Multiple house churches operating simultaneously
 - Everyone involved in ministry (Eph 4:11-16)
 - Result: "All Asia heard the word" (Acts 19:10)
 - Evidence of scale: 50,000 pieces of silver worth of books burned

Conclusion, Application

1. How to lead a small group (ABCD approach): ASK - BELIEVE - CARE - DO
- Small Groups are for ALL to be involved - not just one person preaching
 - You need to get involved - Everyone is called to minister. It's such a blessing.

Discussion Questions:

1. What gifts or abilities do you think you have that could be used to serve others in the church and community?
2. How can we be more like Priscilla and Aquila?
3. How do you think meeting in a small group like this one could help us grow in our faith in ways that might be harder in a large church service?