

# Planting an “everywhere” church

**Micro-clusters of friends** (and their network of relationships) can become a life changing “*where-they-live*” Body-of-Christ!

**If God has put it on your heart to plant a church for an overlooked group of friends....then go ahead, if not then wait until His Spirit nudges you to the next step.....**

1. Ask God to arrange encounters between you and the friends/acquaintances/strangers in whom He has been stirring up a deep spiritual yearning. Keep talking, praying for, and sharing with whomever He brings your way until some are ready to journey with you in this church...it only takes a few. Trust His Spirit to connect you to the right ones, and to have their hearts open. Some will not yet be Christians. Don't be overly anxious and substitute events/attractions...just wait on HIM to connect you to the God-ready persons!
2. Gather at a home, apartment, park, café, etc....wherever the group will participate.
3. Seek to be a fully functioning Body of Christ (a church) at the very first gathering. Without using “churchy terms” you can guide the group to experience the 5 basics of church life (see the practical suggestions below).
4. At every gathering ask God to continue arranging encounters between current participants and others in whom He has created a heart hunger for the person of Christ. **Always be authentic, never false**, in caring for another person. Be sensitive to their needs. Never manipulate. Include and value each one.
5. Personally pray for God to **raise up an “intern”** who will work with you and reproduce the church in another group. Also, seek out a “Paul” who will give you on-going wise counsel as you lead this group.

## Practical ideas for the basic functions or rhythms of the Body-of-Christ

1. **supportive friendships**...share life concerns and pray for each other (perhaps silently if some prefer). Take turns telling (a) what the world has been dumping on you this week, and (b) what God has been doing in your life. “Be there” for one another in the ups and downs of everyday living. Try this over a simple meal each week.
2. **authentic worship**...focus on God's greatness using any combination of a.music/guitar/CD/video), b.art, c.silence/awe,d.nature, e.sharing about God's greatness in your life this week, f.scripture promises, etc.
3. **obedience-based discipleship**...apply a Bible passage to how you live. As a group, dialogue over what it says about (a) God, (b) self, (c) others, (d) life. Pick practical scriptures like: Psalms, Matt. 5-7, John 8, Gal. 6, Philippians, or James. Encourage persons to partner in “Authenticity” pairs during the week .
4. **life-involvement evangelism**...include not-yet-Christians fully and naturally, and allow them to hear/see how Christ is working in the lives of those present. Nurture everyone toward expressing their own “journey-with-God” in genuine relationships. Let people be drawn to God by all they experience in the group.
5. **servanthood caring**...seek opportunities to help others like Christ would (Matt. 25:35-36). Do a mission project. Help someone in a life crisis. Take a weekly offering (always let “giving” be an act of worship) and have the group decide on how to use it in meeting someone's need.
6. **Baptize** anyone who puts their faith in Christ as Savior and Lord. Anyone okayed by the church can baptize as part of gathered worship. Any place is okay.