



INTRO TO HOUSE CHURCH: NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

UPDATED MARCH 2026

OUR VISION

To be a people who

**LOVE GOD,
LOVE PEOPLE, &
MAKE DISCIPLES.**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:30-31

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

WHO WE ARE

OUR GUIDING VALUES

GOSPEL CENTERED

At Enjoy, every aspect of ministry is rooted in the core message of the Gospel—the good news of Jesus Christ. We prioritize sharing, living, and embodying the transformative power of God's love, grace, and redemption as revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

ALLEGIANCE TO SCRIPTURES

We have an unwavering dedication to the authority, truth, and guidance found within God's word. Every teaching, decision, and action within our church community is grounded in the principles and teachings revealed in Scripture.

PARTNERSHIP WITH HOLY SPIRIT

We acknowledge the indispensable role of the Holy Spirit in guiding, empowering, and transforming believers. We have a commitment to cultivating an intimate relationship with the Spirit, relying on His guidance and empowerment in all aspects of our worship, ministry, and daily life. Embracing this partnership enables us to move forward with faith, sensitivity, and effectiveness as we seek to fulfill the Lord's purposes for our church body and the world at large.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

We are dedicated to leading with humility, compassion, and a heart of service, mirroring the example of Jesus Christ. Through servant leadership, we aim to foster a culture of empowerment, collaboration, and selflessness within our church body, reflecting the transformative love of Christ in our actions and attitudes.

RAISE AND RELEASE

We have a commitment to fostering a culture of mentorship, discipleship, and empowerment, where each person is encouraged to grow, serve, and make a meaningful impact in their spheres of influence. By raising and releasing leaders, we aim to multiply Kingdom impact as we send out passionate and equipped disciples to fulfill the Great Commission laid out by Jesus in Matthew 28.

OUR GUIDING VALUES

EXCELLENCE, NOT PERFECTION

Our God is a God of excellence. We believe in continuous improvement, innovation, and dedication to excellence in serving Jesus and others, while realizing that perfection is unattainable. This value fosters a culture of grace, growth, and authenticity at Enjoy, where we celebrate progress over perfection and prioritize excellence in stewarding our gifts and resources for God's glory.

RADICAL GENEROSITY

We believe in giving extravagantly, beyond what is expected or comfortable, reflecting the boundless love and generosity of God. This looks like sacrificially sharing our time, talents, and resources to meet the needs of others and advance God's kingdom.

ENJOYING THE JOURNEY

Life should be enjoyed to the glory of God! We are committed to finding fulfillment and purpose in the present moment, rather than solely focusing on distant goals or outcomes.

HOSPITALITY

As we trace the biblical narrative, we see God caring for his people. A hospitable environment is a tangible expression of God's unconditional love and grace, and is an outworking of the Gospel. We value creating welcoming and safe places for people to come and experience the goodness of Jesus.

ETERNITY FOCUSED

Our time here in this life is short. We seek to be a church that invests our time, resources, and energy in pursuits that have lasting impact beyond this life. We live with purpose and urgency, recognizing that our choices and actions have eternal significance.

WELCOME TO HOUSE CHURCH!

At Enjoy, we have a vision to be a people who love God, love people, and make disciples. It's unapologetically unoriginal, pulled straight from Jesus' two greatest commandments in Matthew 22:37-40 and the Great Commission found in Matthew 28: 16-20. We're so excited you have decided to partner with us in that vision through house church! Before you jump in, we think it's important to know what to expect.

HOW IS HOUSE CHURCH DIFFERENT THAN A SMALL GROUP?

Being part of a house church isn't just another small group. We aren't committing to a meeting where we barely know each other. We are opening our lives to one another, creating a space where vulnerability and authenticity are encouraged.

We don't use curriculum; our curriculum *is* the Bible! We go through Scripture, one book of the Bible at a time, verse-by-verse. We prioritize training and equipping house church leaders to ensure they uphold a high standard, because we learn in James 3:1 that "not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly."

We receive communion together every time we gather, just like the early church. We eat together at each gathering as well, because this is a preview of what God is preparing for us. Revelation 19:9 says, "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb." The Bible ends with a meal, and the table is a glimpse of our future!

WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN EVERY ENJOY HOUSE CHURCH

In order to have healthy and flourishing house churches, we've established 10 "minimums" that every house church is held to. They are:

1. Male and female leadership
2. Prayer
3. Communion
4. Food shared together weekly (potluck style!)
5. Clean and hospitable environment
6. Scripture taught through one book of the Bible at a time (only occasionally topical)
7. Childcare plan (if needed)
8. Quarterly group missions project
9. Minimum gathering frequency of every other week. Some meet every week!
10. Roughly no more than 15 people per gathering. We always want room for guests!

WHY THESE 10 MINIMUMS?

Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)

42 All the believers devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching**, and to **fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper)**, and to **prayer**. 43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 **They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.** 46 They worshiped together at the Temple **each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper**, and **shared their meals** with great joy and generosity— 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. **And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.**

Acts 18:26 (NIV)

"24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When **Priscilla and Aquila** heard him, **they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.**"

WHAT'S THE COMMITMENT OF BEING IN A HOUSE CHURCH?

Show up regularly.

Make this a priority in your week. Things come up, we get it, but let your default be “yes” to being at house church unless something significant prevents it. If you're going to miss a week, give your house church leader a call (just like the old days 😊). It matters when you're there. Saying “yes” to house church will mean saying “no” to other things. But it's worth it!

Help be responsible for the culture of the group.

Be willing to share, ask questions, pray with someone, and be fully present. Don't wait for someone else to lead the way. If you notice someone's quiet, draw them in. If a conversation feels surface level, ask a deeper question. If no one's praying yet, go ahead and break the silence. Participate in the missions projects. Respond in the group chat. Be a team player with meals.

House church is what we all make it. You don't *attend* house church, you *belong to and participate in* a house church!

Contribute to the weekly potluck.

Eating together is a central part of house church! Some house churches will go lighter on food with snacks, others will do a full meal every week. Whichever one your house church is, play your part!

We know this costs time, money, and energy. A few of our values at Enjoy that shape the house church rhythm of eating together are *hospitality, radical generosity, and eternity-focused*. We believe the meal at house church helps shape us into people who embody and live out those values in a more tangible way.

Be teachable and commit to unity.

Be open to learning from Scripture and one another, allowing God's Word to confront areas of our lives that need transformation. When conflict arises, address it quickly and biblically so that trust is protected in the group.

Be honest.

Share honestly and let people really know you (not just the polished version). That's how trust is built!

Be open to multiplication

Hold the group loosely so it can send and start new ones when healthy.

QUESTION + RESPONSE

Are house churches split by demographic?

No. House churches are intentionally intergenerational and diverse. We don't organize them by age, life stage, or personality type. Like the early church, we hope house churches include people of all ages, backgrounds, and incomes. Think of the group like an extended family: you may not love every personality, but you care for and support each other.

That said, sometimes house churches unintentionally drift toward one demographic based on who is available or who lives nearby. When that happens, we encourage you to give it time. Meaningful community often forms slowly, especially when it isn't built around shared preferences.

House church shows the unique beauty of the body of Christ: people who, in the natural world, would have little reason to gather are sharing life together. You won't necessarily connect with everyone through hobbies, age, or interests, and that's normal.

What if I want to switch to a different house church?

We recognize that seasons change and that schedules, location, and availability are often the healthiest reasons to switch to a different house church. While it can be tempting to switch based on preferences (like age, life stage, or personality) we encourage people to resist treating house church like a group you "shop" for. If you're considering a switch, we ask that you talk with your house church leader first so the transition can be handled thoughtfully. We recommend attending house church at least 6x before making a decision to try out a different one.

Can I join a house church if I attend another church?

House churches are designed for people who call Enjoy home. We strongly believe in and actively champion both Sunday gatherings and house church as essential parts of life together. House church isn't a standalone Bible study or a midweek option for people hopping between churches. It's an extension of our shared commitment to one local church family.

If you're part of another church, we encourage you to get plugged into a group there. We believe the healthiest discipleship happens when Sunday worship, leadership, and community are all within the same church body.

QUESTION + RESPONSE CONTINUED

Where do I go when I need care, prayer, or support?

House church exists in part to help meet pastoral needs in a personal and sustainable way. Rather than relying on a few pastors to care for the whole church, we believe care works best when it happens in close-knit community in the context of house church. Your house church leader(s) will be your primary shepherds.

When you need extra support, we recommend leaning on other members of your house church, as we are encouraged in Scripture to “share each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2). When something goes beyond what the group or leader can carry alone, your house church leader will help involve other leaders or pastors in the church as needed.

A FINAL NOTE

We’re so glad you’re jumping into house church! Our hope is that house church becomes a place where you are known and shaped alongside others who call Enjoy Church home to better love God, love people, and make disciples.

Questions about house church? Email SummerMorrill@enjoychurchgj.com.