

Meeting Places of the Early Church

Acts 2:1-2 [NIV] *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole **house where they were sitting.**”*

Meeting in house.

Two Greek words used in New Testament translated “house”

“*ōikia*” – residence – abode – by implication family home or house

“*ōikōs*” – dwelling – temple – by implication family home or house

Acts 2:46 [NIV] *“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in **their homes** and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,”*

“house to house”

Acts 5:42 [NIV] *“Day after day, in the temple courts and from **house to house**, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.”*

“house to house” – as well as in the temple where they could meet with possible converts from Judaism to Christianity.

Acts 12:12 [NIV] *“When this had dawned on him, he went to the **house of Mary** the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.”*

Praying together in the house of Mary.

Acts 17:5-7 [NIV] *“But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the market-place, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to **Jason’s house** in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.”*

Expected to find Paul and Silas in the home of Jason.

Acts 18:4-7 [NIV] *“Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the **house of Titus Justus**, a worshipper of God.”*

After leaving Jews in synagogue went to the home of Titus Justus to continue preaching.

Acts 19:9-10 [NIV] *“But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the **lecture hall of Tyrannus**. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.”*

This school house, the private dwelling of Tyrannus was Paul’s regular meeting place. It is most likely that Paul taught Christianity as Tyrannus taught languages and science. [Clark’s Commentary]

Acts 19:11 [NIV] *“God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,”*

Powerful witness by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 20:20 [NIV] *“You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from **house to house**.”*

Same use of members houses.

Acts 21:8 [NIV] *“Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven.”*

Romans 16:5 [NIV] *“Greet also **the church that meets at their house**. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia.”*

One church in Rome met in home of Priscilla and Aquila.

Acts 16:13-15 [NIV] *“On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate **to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer**. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. When she and the members of her household were baptised, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, **“come and stay at my house.”** And she persuaded us.”*