

Why

At New Life, Home Groups are a space designed to be the missional front door of our church. Jesus told us that the world would know we are His disciples by our love for one another (John 13:35). We believe that one of the best ways to invite someone into the family of God is to a smaller setting where someone can see the body of Christ up close and in action to experience Jesus' presence & love.

For this reason, inviting people - including and especially those who don't know Jesus - to engage with us relationally is an integral aspect of every Home Group. (See the *Accessible > Attractional Home Group Tool* for an additional helpful resource to make your Home Group conducive to this goal).

Before you start

Before thinking missionally, the best place to start as a Home Group is with our own lives. If the members of a Home Group are not living lives full of Jesus's grace and joy, full of the fruits of the Spirit, full of a love and a hope that sustains us as we traverse life, our witness to others will be toothless and ineffective. Home Groups are designed to grow each member in lifestyles of worship, community, and mission; Home Groups that "skip to mission" do so at great cost to themselves and others.

Take steps to evaluate whether your Home Group is a place where the gospel is truly communicated, where the lifestyles are on display vibrantly, and proceed to focus on mission from that place of confidence.

This list of ideas is not exhaustive, but can be used as a starting place for your Home Group to engage in mission.

Ideas for Home Groups to be on mission together
Be <i>excellent</i> at getting to know one another's friends (who come to HG or otherwise); ask questions, be curious to learn more, remember names, include them in plans, etc.
Establish a regular rhythm of praying over who God could be situating near you (your "oikos") in preparation for an invitation to HG
Consider a rhythm wherein once a month (or some other frequency decided by the group), HG is particularly dedicated to inviting new friends and getting to know them in a non-traditional HG format
Together as a HG, ask God to grow in each person a deep burden to see people within your current mission field saved from bondage to sin
Go on a prayer walk together through your dorm, neighborhood, or part of campus, asking for eyes to see physical and spiritual needs you could help meet
Utilize the campus events calendar to learn about ways to engage with others around campus
Spend time in the places that make up your mission field (i.e. study in Couzens, hang out in certain apartment building often, frequent the Michigan union)
Form Intramural teams with 50% new friends, not just all HG members
Consider if some specific evangelism training would make sense for the members in your HG; your HG coach could prioritize this desire at a monthly region core
Schedule a regular time (e.g. weekly) outside of HG for some members to listen to the Spirit, go out on campus, and offer Free Prayer for people (e.g. "Free Prayer Fridays" was a regular habit for one community)