

What Church is Like—the household of God.

One another

Church is a team. The New Testament has a great deal to say about how we can intentionally connect with one another and help each other to *be* more and *achieve* more. Over 47 times people who want to follow Jesus more closely in more areas of their lives are challenged to engage in ways that are consistent with love, unity and humility. <http://bit.ly/11oUtrp>.

The household of God

A different facet of church is communicated by picturing church as a household: a community where people have a duty of care for which they are responsible and accountable. Examples are found in several places.

- You will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's **household**, which is the church of the living God. 1 Timothy 3:15
- Who then is the servant whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his **household** to give them their food at the proper time? Matthew 24:45
- You are fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his **household**. Ephesians 2:19
- All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's **household**. Philippians 4:22
- For it is time for judgment to begin with God's **household**. 1 Peter 4:17

Facilitating life

Church life needs to happen. By using the 'household' picture in his era, Paul looked for a parallel that everybody would recognise. So in our time we use familiar images, too. Church is a community, not a club; it is about collaboration and partnership, not consumption and preferences. Dayspring is co-ordinated around a core team, though leadership doesn't start and finish there. It happens elsewhere as well; in Dayspring Kidz and in music. But we want to broaden the base of leading in the church. We want to get the best insight from the best possible sources.

What kind of leaders

The early churches were made up of some rough diamonds and the requirements for leadership often mentioned things that we would think don't need saying.

- In our environment it goes without saying that the bottom line is that everybody leading in Dayspring is working at following Jesus more closely in more areas of their life.
- They need to be invested in the church: in giving, involvement and serving.
- They need to have bought in to Dayspring's mission, vision, and values and be totally behind making mission the operating principle. <http://bit.ly/158j0mW>.
- Finally they need to be people who can work in the special ways that may not be all that common in other areas of life but are non-negotiable when doing church. The formula F-A-S-T expresses it well: FAITHFUL; AVAILABLE; SUBMISSIVE; TEACHABLE.

We will talk about each of these qualifications as we go along, well aware that none of us have arrived yet.

The right way round

At the outset of this bite-sized series we introduced the idea that before we can decide what church should be like, we need to start with our insights about Jesus and be clear about how that shapes our thinking about mission. Only then can we build a church that is a resource base for mission. Even if it does not always look like it, Dayspring has been on a journey since its earliest days to be a church that expresses Jesus's heart for lost people. We are not yet anywhere near where we want to get but we have set our direction. by taking Cabaret out of the equation for twelve months, we have created space. Thinking about what we do in the room we have created should begin to allow more people to be involved in the process of moving Dayspring forward.