



# LIFE *On* MISSION

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in Sydney*

## The Home

Have you ever moved to a new place or church? What were you looking forward to when you moved?

Were the people friendly in the new place where you moved to? How did they show you that they wanted to develop a real friendship with you?

### Digging into the Bible

When people met Jesus, they very quickly wanted to give their friends and workmates the opportunity to meet Him too. Andrew invited his brother Simon and then Phillip invited his friend Nathanael to come and meet Jesus (**John 1:40-51**). The Samaritan woman, Jesus met by a well, invited the whole village where she lived to come and see Jesus (**John 4:1-45**).

Matthew Levi felt the same desire to introduce the people that he knew to Jesus. However, he knew his friends and work colleagues might hesitate to come and meet Jesus in public. The reason was that they were tax collectors and people hated them because of their political connection with Rome and their well-known financial corruption. He also may have wondered whether Jesus may even refuse to be introduced to them and associate with them publicly as well. So, Matthew decided to use an approach which would not embarrass them—he invited them to his home! Even then, Matthew and Jesus could not avoid being criticised by people who thought that Matthew’s friends were sinners. Read about this story in **Luke 5:27-32**.

1. Why was Matthew’s strategy so brilliant?
2. Why wasn’t Jesus worried about spending time with people who had bad social reputations?
3. Why was it important that Jesus spent time with Matthew’s workmates in his home?
4. Who spends more time in your home—fellow church members or non-Christians? Why?
5. How can we follow Matthew’s method of using our home to introduce people to Jesus?

### Making it practical...

Matthew’s example has inspired influential church leaders like Bill Hybels to encourage Christians to organise Matthew parties. He highlighted the fact that there is an important evangelistic principle called “BBQ First!” before moving to spiritual ideas.

Almost 100 years ago, Ellen White recommended the same approach. She said:

We should feel that it is our special responsibility to work for those living in our neighbourhood. Study how you can best help those who take no interest in spiritual

things. As you visit your friends and neighbours, show an interest in their spiritual as well as in their physical wellbeing. Speak to them of Christ as a forgiving Saviour. Invite your neighbours to your home, and read with them from the precious Bible and from books that explain its truths. Invite them to unite with you in song and prayer. In these little gatherings, Christ Himself will be present, as He has promised, and hearts will be touched by His grace.<sup>1</sup>

Jesus has promised that the Holy Spirit will guide us to know when the best time will be to introduce spiritual ideas into our conversation and how to do this in the best possible way.

You can join thousands of other Adventists around Australia who are inviting their friends, neighbours, work colleagues, classmates and family members to their home for dinner. Read more about this discipleship project on the Disciple.org.au website:

<https://disciple.org.au/projects/open-home/>

There are 7 simple steps that you can follow to be able to invite people to your home outlined on this Open Home webpage.

### **Talking with the Master**

Spend time praying conversationally as a group. Ask Jesus know who you can invite home for a meal. Pray that the Holy Spirit would open the heart of the person to accept your invitation and guide you when the person comes over to your home.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted slightly from *The Ministry of Healing*, p152.