

# From ancient to modern worlds

This session used a **cabinet-maker's house** to imagine how a large group of non-elite people might deal with issues of organising themselves and negotiating roles within the group. This was the house from which Peter Oakes developed his model of a non-elite Christian group and found that a real range of people would have been present and participating in their meetings.



## Imagine an example modern church

This exercise focuses on relationships within a group rather than on a specific setting. Imagine a contemporary Christian group that meets in a church or non-church space.

### Questions

- What mix of people are present? You could consider the relative ages, genders, ethnicities, economic or educational backgrounds that are represented.
- What are the relationships within the church? Friends, colleagues, family, neighbours, etc.
- How significant are these ties in drawing new group members?
- To what extent do the ties created through membership of the church continue into daily life?
- How is the group structured? Are roles formal or informal?
- Do certain 'gifts' or skills lead members to take on certain roles in the group, or do they acquire new roles having joined the group?
- How might such a group use 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 in organising themselves and their activities?



**\*Note:** If you are drawing on examples of church groups you are familiar with, please keep in mind that the purpose of the activity is to think about the types of connections within different types of groups. It is not intended to be a discussion of a particular church.

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