

How to set up an Arise group in your church



Arise church groups

Arise is a global movement, mobilising Christians to campaign and take practical action to transform the world around us through **evangelism, discipleship**, fighting **social injustice**, eliminating **poverty** and restoring the **environment**.

We send out one action each week that Christians can take to see lives transformed in these areas. This might be to pray, to make lifestyle changes, to make more ethical choices in the things we buy, to write to politicians to urge them to act on important issues, or a myriad of other things. Each action is practical, fun and makes a real difference. You can find the latest action on our website (www.ariseuk.org/take-action). It's great to take these actions as individuals. But, it's even better to meet together with other Christians in your church, pray, worship, have fun and take these actions together.

Will you set up an Arise group in your church? It's easy, fun and sociable. Together through local Arise groups we can grow and strengthen our churches, have fun with others, and transform the world around us, one step at a time.

Getting started

- **Talk to your church leader/s first** – Explain that you want to set up the group. Church leaders are usually far too busy to get deeply involved, but it's important to have their blessing and support. The Arise group in your church will be helping church members put their faith into action through **evangelism, discipleship**, fighting **social injustice**, eliminating **poverty** and restoring the **environment**. It should therefore be a real blessing to the life of the church and should help it grow.
- **Promote the new group** – Get a slot at the front in your church service/s so you can tell everyone about the Arise group, and ask people to join. Remember to also promote it in your church newsletter, website, Facebook page etc. Reach out individually to anyone in your church you already know is passionate about social injustice, poverty or the environment, ask them if they want to join. Also reach out to the youth in your church, who are often passionate on these issues.
- **Start with whoever turns up at your first meeting** – If it's only a small number, don't be discouraged. God will bring whoever he wants to bring. Others will join once you get going.
- **Agree how often you will meet** – What works best for you – weekly, fortnightly, monthly?
- **Meet in your church building** – Try and meet in your church building, offices or hall if you have one. Meeting on the church premises helps confirm the group in the core of the life of the church. If that's not possible, meet in someone's home, or even online.
- **Get everyone to sign up to Arise** – Encourage people who join your group to sign up to get Arise's weekly actions directly. They can do this on the website (www.ariseuk.org/sign-up). Then you will all receive the same action at the same time, and can come together to do some of them when you meet.

- **What if there is already a similar group?** – If there is already a social justice, environment or missions group in your church, then don't reinvent the wheel. Rather than setting up a separate Arise group, join the pre-existing group instead and get involved. Offer the Arise actions to them, and take them together as often as the group wants to.

Meetings

Here is our suggested format for your meetings. But, you will know what works best for your local group, so do change this to whatever works for you.

- **Worship** – If possible it's great to have some time of worship together.
- **Discussion** – Discuss the topic raised in the weekly Arise action. What do you think about the issue?
- **Take the action** – Together take the latest or a recent Arise action. Chat and laugh together while you are doing it. Maybe play some music. Ideally, as well as taking the action yourselves, you can encourage the other members of your church beyond just the group to take the action too. Discuss how you can do that.
- **What do you want to do as a group?** – The weekly Arise action provides a starting point. But don't feel you need to stop there. What are the things you are passionate about in the crucial areas of **evangelism, discipleship, fighting social injustice, eliminating poverty** and restoring the **environment**? As you go on, you may well find ideas and passions naturally emerge and you can go way beyond the weekly Arise actions.
- **Prayer** – Pray for the issues raised in the weekly action.
- **Social time** – The actions are important, they make a real difference and help transform the world around us. But coming together and having fun while you do them is crucial too. Why not have tea, coffee and cakes, plenty of time to chat, or all go to the pub afterwards? Whatever works for your group. Strong friendships form when we take action on important issues together, and have fun whilst we do it.

Keep going and keep us in touch

- Once you are up and running, remember to keep promoting the Arise group to your wider church and encourage other people to join. Once a month do a short plug from the front in your church service/s. Get an area for your local Arise group on the church website, Facebook page, in the church newsletter etc. Set up a WhatsApp group for members to keep in touch. Get your own noticeboard in the church.
- Keep in touch with Arise by emailing us at info@ariseuk.org and let us know how it is going. Let us know if we can help in any way at all.
- Invite a speaker from Arise to come to one of your group meetings, and maybe speak in your church. We would love to spend some time with you.

We hope this short guide has been helpful. Thank you for wanting to set up an Arise group in your church. Thank you for wanting to see the world around us transformed as we live out our Christian calling to expand God's kingdom through **evangelism, discipleship, fighting social injustice, eliminating poverty** and restoring the **environment**. Let's keep going forward together ... arise.

www.ariseuk.org