

8 Reasons to be a part of a LIFE GROUP

1. You will build authentic relationships.

Most people who have been a part of a small group say the greatest benefit is the close relationships and friendships that develop. You'll also discover that your needs and feelings are not unique—we're all in the same boat. It helps to know that others are facing the same difficulties, or have lived through them and learned spiritual principles in the process. The Bible instructs us to pray, love, encourage and accept one another. The best way to do this is in a small group! We really do need each other. God never meant for you to go it alone in life. If you're lonely, the answer is to join a group. In a small group, you can belong before you believe.

2. The Bible will make more sense in your life.

In a small group setting, you can ask questions, participate in discussion of the text, and hear others share insights and illustrations of the truth your group grasps. The Bible must be applied to your own personal situations and that happens best in small groups.

3. You will discover the benefits of prayer.

No one is pressured to pray, but as you become comfortable, you will be able to pray sentence prayers and join in. There are many promises in the Bible related to group prayer. In praying with others, we are drawn together and we find answers to the needs in our lives. Prayer draws you into a deeper relationship with God.

4. You will be able to handle stress and pressure better.

Small groups provide excellent support in times of crisis, change and stress. You will experience a sense of stability and security knowing there are people who really care and support you when you need it the most.

5. You will have a natural way to share Christ with friends, relatives and co-workers.

It may be that some of your friends who don't have an intimate relationship with God would not be caught dead in church. They have a preconceived idea and just the thought makes them defensive. But these same people may be open to an invitation to a casual Bible discussion in a home. In a small group, your friend can ask questions and express honest doubts without feeling "put on the spot." When your friend sees the love and warmth and honesty of those in your small group, it will make him or her more receptive to the Good News.

6. You will develop leadership skills you never knew you had.

The Bible teaches that every believer is given certain talents or "gifts" to benefit others in the family of God. As you share and participate in a relaxed small group setting, you will discover your confidence and self-esteem rising. This will help you at work, at church and in every other relationship.

7. You will deepen your understanding of worship.

Worship isn't something that can only happen on Sunday morning. Worship happens anytime we focus on God. Sometimes that happens best in a smaller group praying or singing together. In fact, all five purposes of the church can be experienced within the small group setting.

8. You will be a New Testament Christian!

The book of Acts is very clear about how God intends for his people to grow and have their needs met in the church. We will never be able to hire enough professional ministerial staff to meet all of the individual needs within our church family. But God never intended for it to work that way!

Consider the following verses:

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer... All the believers were together and had everything in common... And they continued to meet together... every day they met in the **temple**... and they broke bread in their **homes** and ate together... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."* (see Acts 2:42-47)

*"Day after day, in the **temple courts** and from **house** to **house** they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is the Christ."* (Acts 5:42)

*"Greet also the church that meets at their **house**."* (Romans 16:5)

*"Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord and so does the church that meets in their **house**."* (1 Cor. 16:19)

*"Give my greetings...to Nympha and the church in her **house**."* (Col. 4:15)