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
took their meals with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. And
every day they met in the temple…” (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.” (I Cor. 16:19)

“Give my greetings…to Nympha and the church in her house.”
(Col. 4:15)