

8 Reasons To Join A Small Group...

1. You will have a better understanding of the Bible.

Have you ever listened to a Bible teacher or preacher & wanted to stop that person to say, “But what about..?” or “I don’t understand?” If so, then a small group is for you! In a small group setting, you can ask questions, participate in a discussion of the text, & hear others share insights & illustrations about God’s truth– often exactly the concept that you are trying to grasp. Bible truths must be applied to bring life change & that happens best in small groups. Many of our small groups are using study materials related to our weekly sermons so our members can “dive deeper.”

2. You will experience God’s family.

Most group members list authentic loving friendships as the greatest benefit of small group participation. You’ll discover that your needs & problems are not unique ~ we’re all in the same boat. It helps to know that others have experienced or are facing the same difficulties and have learned spiritual principles that they can share. In the New Testament we are instructed to love, encourage, pray for, accept, build up and bear one another’s burdens. The best way we can obey these commands is in a small group!

3. Prayer will become more meaningful.

Many people are hesitant to pray in front of others, especially in a large church. In a small group of 6 to 12, you will learn to participate in prayer by having a conversation together with God. No one is pressured to pray, but as you become comfortable, you’ll be able to pray sentence prayers & join in. There are many promises in the Bible related to group prayer. In praying together with a few others, we are drawn together & we find answers to the needs in our lives.

4. You will not go through life alone.

Small groups provide excellent support in times of crisis, change & stress. You’ll have a sense of stability & security knowing there are people who really care for you & are committed to standing with you. When someone loses a job, or a family member has an extended illness, or a mother needs a babysitter - these are practical needs that will be naturally taken care of through your small group. Your group will coordinate the sharing of hot meals to be brought in when your family is in need. Many people in our church could testify that they would not have made it through a difficult time if it hadn’t been for the support of their small group.



5. You will learn how to tell others about Christ.

It may be that some of your friends who don't know the Lord wouldn't be caught dead in a church. Many have given up on church but not on God. Thus, your friends and family may be open to an invitation to a casual Bible discussion in a home or office setting. In a small group, your unbelieving friend can ask questions and express honest doubts without feeling "put on the spot". When your friend sees the love, warmth & honesty of your group, it will make them feel more receptive to the Good News.

6. You will learn how God has gifted you for service

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

7. You will deepen your understanding of worship.

Many believers mistakenly believe that worship can only happen on Saturday nights or Sunday mornings in a large group with a sermon, music & offering plate! Worship happens any time we focus on God. Sometimes that happens best in a smaller group in praying or singing together.

8. You will become a replicating disciple of Christ ready for ministry!

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

Consider these 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. Every day they continued to meet together.....they broke bread in their homes and ate together...and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved"

Acts 2:42,44,46-47