

8 Reasons to Join a Life Group

1. You will get connected and experience authentic community.

Most people who have been a part of a group say the greatest benefit is the close relationships and friendships that develop. Somebody to celebrate with and do life together! You'll discover that your needs and problems are not unique ~ we're all in the same boat. It helps to know that others are facing the same difficulties and have learned spiritual principles in the process.

Over fifty times in the New Testament the phrase "one another" is used to describe our relationship to other believers. We are instructed to love one another, encourage one another, pray for one another, accept one another, bear one another's burdens, and build up one another. The only way you can obey these commands is in a Life Group! We really do need each other. Christianity is a team sport!

2. You will understand the Bible better in a Life Group.

If you've ever listened to a Bible teacher or preacher and wanted to stop that person and say, "But what about...?" or "I don't understand," then a life group is for you! Large group teaching is one way communication. You listen while the speaker speaks. It's fine for imparting knowledge, but not as effective for personal application as a small group. In a Life Group setting, you can ask questions, participate in discussions, and hear others share insights and illustrations of the truth you are trying to grasp. The Bible must be applied to your own personal situations and that happens best in small groups.

All of our groups are using the KCM- Knowing Christ More Bible study that is based on Sunday's message as a Bible discussion guide. The other part of the KCM is 5-5-5. Daily devotionals of 5 minutes of prayer, worship, and Bible study covering the passage for the upcoming week's message. Also included is Table Talk (family mealtime devotionals), and a golden star memory verse each week for the whole family.

3. Prayer will become more meaningful to you.

Many people are hesitant to pray in front of others, especially in a large church. In a Life Group, 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 and join in. There are many promises in the Bible related to group prayer. In praying together, we are drawn together and we find power and answers to the needs in our lives.

4. You will find support in difficult times.

Life Groups provide excellent support in times of crisis, change, and stress. You'll have a sense of stability and security knowing there are people who really care for you and 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 Life 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 group.

The logo for Life Groups features the word "life" in a large, lowercase, serif font. A small green leaf is positioned above the letter "i". Below "life", the word "GROUPS" is written in a smaller, uppercase, sans-serif font.

5. You will have a natural way to share Christ with your *Oikos*- (family, friends, relatives, and work associates.)

Oikos is a Greek word for family or sphere of influence. It may be that some of your friends who don't know the Lord wouldn't be caught dead in a church. They have a preconceived idea and just the thought makes them defensive. But those same people may be only one invitation away from a step that will change their spiritual destiny. In a Life Group, you and your friends can ask questions and express honest doubts without feeling "put on the spot". When your friend sees the love and warmth and honesty of your group, it will make him more receptive to the Good News. Relational connections are always the most effective means to share the Gospel.

6. You will begin to develop your unique gifts and talents!

The Bible teaches that every believer is given certain talents or "gifts" to benefit others in the family of God. Unfortunately most Christians remain as Sunday morning spectators all their lives, because large group meetings are primarily "sit and listen" situations. As you share and participate in a relaxed Life Group setting, you'll discover your confidence and self-esteem rising. This will help you at work, at church, and in every relationship.

7. You will deepen your understanding of worship.

Many believers mistakenly believe that worship can only happen on Sunday morning in a large group with a sermon, a choir, and an offering plate! Worship happens anytime we focus on God. This can happen best in a smaller group as we praise God together. At CrossBridge, we desire that you experience the power of the Holy Spirit personally in your daily time with Jesus and in community- Life Group. There is no better place to experience freedom of worship than with your closest friends.

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 pastors to meet all the individual needs in our family. God never intended for it to be that way! The Church is to know Christ more and make Him known. Our Life Groups are "the church"!

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

"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." Rom. 16:5

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

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

We are excited about the incredible potential of the network of neighborhood Life Groups all over San Antonio that God is building through CrossBridge! These eight are benefits that nobody can afford to pass up, so if you are not participating in a group, why not join one this week or come to the next Group Link to connect into life in Authentic Biblical Community today?

life
GROUPS