



LIFE
GROUPS

8 REASONS TO JOIN IN

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 also to support through hard times! 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.

More than 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 Lifegroup! We really do need one another. Christianity is a team sport!

YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE BETTER IN A LIFEGROUP

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 Lifegroup 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 Lifegroup 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.

PRAYER WILL BECOME MORE MEANINGFUL TO YOU

Many people are hesitant to pray in front of others, especially in a large church. In a Lifegroup, 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 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 for our lives. Also, prayer is two-way communication so you will be able to slow down and ask, wait and receive what the Lord wants to share personally with you at that time and have chance to share with others and be encouraged with what they received as well.

YOU WILL FIND SUPPORT IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Lifegroups 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. Whether it's meeting practical needs, meals, childcare, or prayer support, your spiritual family is there for you in a special way, and you will desire to be there for them too!

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. But those same people may be only one invitation away from a step that will change their spiritual destiny. In a Lifegroup, you and your friends can ask questions and express honest doubts without feeling "put on the spot." When your friend sees the love, warmth and honesty of your group, it will make them more receptive to the Good News. **Relational connections** are always the most effective means to share the gospel.

YOU WILL BEGIN TO DEVELOP YOUR UNIQUE GIFTS AND TALENTS

The Bible teaches that every believer is given certain "gifts" to benefit others in the family of God. Unfortunately, most Christians remain Sunday morning spectators all their lives, because large group meetings are primarily "sit-and-listen" situations. As you share and participate in a Lifegroup setting, you'll discover your confidence and self-esteem rising as the Lord allows you to **ble**ss, **encourage** and **minister to others**.

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 – Lifegroup. There is no better place to experience freedom of worship than with your closest friends.

YOU WILL GROW AS 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! **Our Lifegroups are "the church"!** It's why God wants everyone to come into the Church, so we continually welcome and invite people to Lifegroup.

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

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

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

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Cor. 12:27

We are excited about the incredible potential of the network of neighborhood Lifegroups all over San Antonio that God is building through CrossBridge! These eight are benefits that nobody should miss out on, so if you are not participating in a Lifegroup, why not visit one this week or come to the next Discover class to learn more about Lifegroups at CrossBridge.