

## Five Reasons to Join a Small Group

1. *To Study God's Word.* In a small group setting a portion of the Bible is read and studied. You can ask questions, participate in a discussion of the text, hear others share insights and illustrations, and apply God's principles to situations in your own personal life.
2. *To Share Life's Joys and Struggles.* Each member of your small group will delight in sharing your happy times with you. And when those inevitable periods of crisis, change, and stress come into your life, you'll have a sense of stability and security knowing there are people who really care for you, who will pray for you, who are committed to standing with you and will help you make it through a difficult time.
3. *To Pray for One Another.* God talks to us through His word; we talk to God when we pray. Prayer is simply having a conversation with God and God hears the earnest prayers of His people. Small group meetings open with a prayer for God's blessing for the group; meetings close with thanksgiving and prayers for each other.
4. *To Reach Out In Service And Ministry To Others.* A natural extension of a love for God is a love for others. Each small group will decide on one or two projects a year that they would like to do together. There are many needs and opportunities, such as a visit to a nursing home, prepare and serve lunch at a soup kitchen, make fleece blankets for hurricane victims, or perhaps paint a Sunday School room at St. Paul.
5. *Enjoy Christian Fellowship And Hospitality.* 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. This happens naturally in a small group, and many people who have been a part of a group say the greatest benefit is the close relationships and friendships that develop.