

# CALVARY'S LIFE Group Ministry

## What is a LIFE Group?

Glad you asked. Let me explain what a LIFE Group is **NOT**.

It is **NOT**...



- just a Bible Study
- just a Prayer Meeting
- just a social gathering
- a Holy huddle
- a mutual admiration society
- a time just to get together to chat a bit.

Let me tell you what it **IS**:

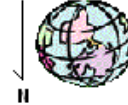
- A gathering of like minded believers who want to experience Jesus as He promised: "... where two or three (*or more*) are gathered together in My Name..."
- A time to **STUDY** and seek to **APPLY** the Word of God in our lives, together
- A time for accountability, encouragement, and edification of one another concerning our walk with Jesus
- A time to pray for one another, for our lost neighbors, for our fellow brethren in this local church family, etc.
- A time to strategize about ways to reach our neighbors for Christ
- A time to reach out to our neighbors, together, helping one another with this task.

## No "Lone Ranger" Christians allowed

In the New Testament, you will have a very hard time finding "Lone Ranger" Christians. They simply did not exist. Christians from the day of Pentecost and throughout the rest of the New Testament Scriptures are always characterized with such words as "brethren", "one another", "you-all", "all of you", and the like. When Paul the Apostle mentions some of the people who were on his "team", he mentions over 16 people (see Romans chapter 16). Jesus formed the original small group, composed of 12 men. They were supposed to love one another as Jesus loved them (see John 13:34, 35). We, also, see in Acts 2:42-47, 20:20, that throughout the early Christian movement, Christians met in **public** gatherings **AND** from **house to house**. They knew the secret: being a part of encouraging, accountable, and loving relationships in Christ helps a person grow in Christ and helps others grow in Christ. Each person, utilizing their God given gifts, employed them to build up one another. Each person knew that they were needed and that they needed others in Christ. I need you and you need me. The spiritual gifts you and I have from the **LORD** are not for us personally, but for the Body of Christ, our fellow believers. These gifts need to be employed in intimate, relational ways, where people cannot fake it, but where they actually help others in Christ. It has been found, that small groups in the Home are some of the best settings for this.

## Turning the world upside down

These were the same kind of people that it was said that they were turning the world upside down. Yes, they were turning the world upside down for Christ. Wouldn't you like that to be said of you, today? Wouldn't you like that to be said of this Church? I think it can be, if we radically commit...



- our lives in a renewed way to Jesus
- our time and priorities to Jesus
- to pray for one another, our lost neighbors, our community, missionaries, etc.
- to study and apply His Word to our lives
- to get together from **House to House** as they did in the Early Church

I think if we follow Jesus in the same way the early followers of Jesus did in the Early Church, we can see the same kind of results that they did. They gathered together **Publicly** and from **House to House**. They did not ignore one type of gathering over the other. They did **both**. And they did not just "play church". They understood that **they** were the Church. They trusted in God and expected Him to fulfill His promises in expanding His Kingdom in and through them.

## What we need...

Every **born-again** believer in Jesus has certain needs. No matter who you are, you need **someone** who...

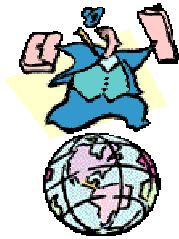
- knows your name
- will encourage you in your walk with Jesus
- can hold you accountable for your walk with Jesus
- can be close enough to admonish and exhort you
- can help you grow in Christ
- can help you use your spiritual gifts to help others



You will not find just one person who will do or be all of these things for you. In a LIFE Group setting, as God's Spirit works through each person, **Jesus** will **be** and **do** all of these things for you - **through others** in the Group. Why do I say that? Because He did, "where two or three (*or more*) are gathered together in My Name, there I am in the midst of them." When we gather together in a small group in the Name of Jesus, like that of a LIFE Group, **He** is there. He will work through the various members of that LIFE Group to build-up, encourage, strengthen, equip, exhort, admonish, and teach one another. He will work through me, to help you. He will work through you to help me.

As you can see, **it is all about Jesus**. We want to experience the **Presence**, the **Power**, and the **Purpose** of **Jesus** when we gather together in our LIFE Groups. We want to see Jesus formed in each other's lives and to see our neighbors won to Christ, neighborhood by neighborhood. When unchurched, non-Christians ("the lost") encounter a LIFE Group that truly loves one another as Jesus said, they will want to know the **One** who gives that kind of **LOVE**. That, you cannot fake. It has to be something Jesus does in and through us as we submit and surrender to Him.

Please join one of the LIFE Groups and experience this kind of New Testament lifestyle.



You have had a rough week... so... let your hair down, take off your shoes, grab some snacks and coffee, and let's open our hearts and Bibles and let's prayerfully and joyfully gather for a while as we seek God's face for His presence, power, and purpose for us and through us, together... let's re-energize ourselves in His presence...

**If you are interested in joining or starting a LIFE Group, contact:**

Pastor Andy Thomas

Phone: (970) 275-0739

Email: [luvjcnw@yahoo.com](mailto:luvjcnw@yahoo.com)

Place To Call

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**Some Scriptural References:**

Exodus 18:13-27; Numbers 11:10-17; Acts 2:42-47; 5:42; John 13:34-35;  
Acts 20:18-21; Romans 12:4-18; Romans 15:1-3, 7; 1 Cor. 11:17 - to the end of  
chapter 14; Galatians 6:2-5, 10; Ephesians 4:1-7, 25, 32; Philippians 2:1-5;  
Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, 5:11-15; 2 Tim. 2:2; Hebrews 3:12-13,  
10:23-25; James 5:13-18; 1 Peter 4:7-11; 1 John 4:7-21



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