



CIRCLE UP

PART 4

Experiencing Church in Circles, Not Rows

Before a big game, teams circle up, review the game plan, and hear a few motivational words from the coach. As your new group kicks off, learn some ways to make sure your group experience is a great one.

ICEBREAKER:

One of my favourite LifeGroup experiences was a group my wife and I were in years ago. The group met on Thursday evenings and we had dinner together. Each dinner had a theme based on a part of the world. We had Greek night, Mexican night ... you get the idea. Theming our group this way was a blast! We couldn't wait for Thursday nights to roll around each week. What memories do you have of being in a group that connected around food? Maybe for you it was family get togethers, or a group of buddies from school or work. Share your experience with the group.

MEMORY VERSE: Read the following verses out loud together. Then see if you can quote the verses without looking at the page.

"They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity." Acts 2:46 NLT

VIDEO: Watch Circle Up Part 4 <https://www.anthology.study/circleup>

STUDY:

OWNING YOUR GROUP EXPERIENCE AND YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- What did you think of Samir's story of his different group experiences. Can you relate?

Samir began his story by sharing about what he used to do in group and how his actions really didn't grow him spiritually. He showed up but did not really contribute. He attended just to "check the box"

- Do you think it's OK to be part of a group for awhile and not really contribute? Why or why not?

Samir shared that a key turning point in the group was the night his group leader got vulnerable about some things going on in his life.

- Have you been in a group where people got vulnerable about their life? What impact did that have on the group?

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Samir mentioned some key things he did to own his group experience.

- Get to know everyone
 - Remember what is going on in their lives and ask about it.
 - Connect outside of group.
 - Make group a priority
 - Be engaged – participate in the discussion and group activities.
 - Bring snacks
 - Volunteer to host
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- How many of these are you practicing your group? How could you go to the next level?

CREATING SPACE FOR LIFE CHANGE TO HAPPEN

READ: Acts 2:42-45

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” NLT

- What are some things these early believers were doing to create space for life change?
- What takeaways we can apply to our context today?

OWNING YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

“Spiritual growth is a growing faith in God validated by a growing love for God and others.”
Circle Up Session 4

- In the video, Samir pointed out that other can’t do this for you. No one can make you grow spiritually. What other areas of life hold this same principle? How does this help you reframe your understanding of spiritual growth?

Spiritual growth happens as I identify and take next steps spiritually.

- What next steps do you sense God inviting you to take in your spiritual journey?

SHARING ROLES IN GROUP

Here is a list of some of the roles you can share in group.

Snack coordinator – communicates with the group about who’s bringing the goods!

Prayer recorder – keeps a list of prayer requests for the group.

Host – opens their home for the group to meet

Facilitator – guides the discussion for a group study

Party Person – Oh Yeah! 😊 Plan your next group party or outing.

Want more ideas? Check out the LifeGroup Role cards at Creekside!

PRAYER: Take some time now to pray together in group. You can do this in groups of two or three people. Use the following questions as a guide for how to pray for each other. Aim for about 5 minutes for each person to share answers to these questions, then pray for one another. (Note: if you are uncomfortable praying out loud, it is OK to pray silently).

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What challenge are you facing? Is there some way the group can help?
- What do you sense God is inviting you to do from this study?

Looking for ideas on what to study next?

*** Check out www.lifegroupleaders.ca ***

LIFEGROUP GUIDELINES

Go over the following guidelines as a group. These guidelines will help lay the foundation for a healthy group experience. Feel free to add or modify these guidelines to what will best suit your group experience.

We agree to the following values:

- Clear Purpose:** To FOLLOW JESUS, LOVE GOD and LOVE PEOPLE.
- Group Attendance:** To prioritize our group meeting and let the group know if I'm going to be late or absent.
- Safe Environment:** To create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgments or simple fixes)
- Confidentiality:** To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group.
- Conflict Resolution:** To avoid gossip and immediately resolve any concerns by following the principles of Matthew 18:15-17
- Spiritual Health:** To give group members permission to speak into my life and help me live a healthy, balanced spiritual life that is pleasing to God.
- Welcome Newcomers:** To invite friends who might benefit from this study and warmly welcome newcomers.
- Building Relationships:** To get to know other members of the group and pray for them regularly.

Other: _____

We have also discussed and agree upon the following items:

Child Care: _____

Starting Time:

Ending Time:
