

# Why join a small Church?

northmead  
ANGELICAN CHURCHES

## 1.

### You will understand the Bible better in a small 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 small group is for you!

Preaching and teaching is a 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 small group setting you can ask questions, participate in a discussion of the text and hear others share insights and illustrations of the truth you are trying to grasp.

The application of the Bible to your personal situation happens best in small groups. Sometimes I've had people tell me after church "It would be helpful if I could sit down with some others and discuss the implications of your teaching today. You said so much, I need to digest it."

Most of our groups use material based on what is being preached each week for their small church meetings.

## 2.

### You will begin to really feel part of God's family.

Most people who have been in a small church say the greatest benefit is the close relationships and friendships that develop. They will frequently contact each other during the week to share an urgent prayer request or an exciting answer.

You'll discover that your needs and problems are not unique – we're all in the same boat and it helps when you know that others are facing the same difficulties, or have lived through them and learned spiritual principles in the process.

Over fifty times in the New Testament, the phrase "one another" is used to describe our relationship with 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. One way you can obey these commands is in a small church.

We really do need each other. God never meant for you to go it alone in the Christiana life. If you're lonely, the answer is to join a group.

## 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 small group of 6 – 12 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 short prayers and join in.

In praying with a few others, you are drawn together and share the joy of answered prayer as you see God work.

## 4.

### **You will be able to handle stress and pressure better**

Small groups provide excellent support in times of crisis, change and stress. You'll have a sense of stability and security knowing that 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 can be naturally taken care of through your small church. Your group will co-ordinate meals, arrange transport, mow lawns – much of what is needed can be arranged in small churches.

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 small church.

## 5.

### **You will have a natural way to share Christ with unbelieving friends, relatives and work associates.**

It may be that some of your friends who don't know Jesus wouldn't be caught dead in a church. They have pre-conceived ideas and just the thought makes them defensive.

But those same people may be open to an invitation to a casual Bible discussion in a home setting. In a small group your unbelieving friend 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 them more responsive to the Good News.

## 6.

### **You will develop skills you never knew you had.**

The Bible teaches that every believer is given certain talents or 'gifts' to benefit others in the family of God. Unfortunately most Christians remain spectators most of their lives because large group meetings are primarily 'sit and listen' situations. As you share and participate in a relaxed setting, you'll discover confidence rising and be drawn into ways of serving the people in your group that you hadn't tried before.

This will help you at church, at work and in other relationships. A small church is a very sympathetic arena for exercising spiritual gifts.

## 7.

### You will be a New Testament Christian!

The book of Acts is very clear about how God intends for his people to serve and be served and so grow in Christian maturity.

We would never be able to have enough professional pastors to meet all the individual needs in our church family – and God never intended for it to be that way!

Consider these verses:

*"They devoted themselves to the apostle's 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."*  
Romans 16:5

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

*"Give greetings . . . to Nympha and the church in her house."*  
Colossians 4:15

In congregations the size of NAC and MFAC, people can feel passed over or not noticed.

In joining a small church you immediately belong to a group of 8-10 people who are committed to you, who will become firm friends.

Small Church is a perfect balance to 'Big' church in so many ways.

Contact George or a congregational pastor as a first step to joining one soon.

