



ChrisCare

Groups

Circles of

Care with

Christ at

the Center



## ChristCare Equipper Team



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## ChristCare Group Ministry



# ChrisCare Groups Circles of Care with Christ at the Center

## Circles of Care with Christ at the Center

Christ is central to ChristCare Groups. ChristCare Group members meet Jesus himself in their fellow group members, in the Scriptures, in prayer and worship, and through their missional service. With Jesus at the center of all that the group is and does, group members grow as Jesus' disciples, increasing in faith, joy, and love.

ChristCare Groups are circles of care, which means that group members care for one another with the love of Christ. As a ChristCare Group member, you never have to go through a tough time alone, be it a major crisis or just the bumps and bruises of daily life. Your fellow group members are always there for you.

### Four Activities of ChristCare Groups:

- Community Building & Care
- Biblical Equipping
- Prayer & Worship
- Missional Service

The Holy Spirit works through these activities to make ChristCare Groups into "Circles of Care with Christ at the Center."

**Four good reasons why ChristCare Groups are necessary for our congregation to be all that God calls us to be...**

### ***Reason 1: Christ's Own Example***

Much of Jesus' most significant ministry took place with the small group he formed at the beginning of his ministry — the twelve disciples. In this intimate setting Jesus shared the truth and wisdom of God, teaching them about prayer, holy living, faith, hope, and love.

### ***Reason 2: Building Community***

In a world where people often feel isolated, there is a strong need to have a place "where everybody knows your name." In ChristCare Groups, people feel loved and accepted and can share when they are happy or hurting.

### ***Reason 3: The Renewal of the Church***

Whenever the church has experienced renewal, small groups have played a key role. Groups help open members to the Spirit's work through prayer and praise, Bible study, encouragement and support, equipping for ministry and witness, and service in daily life.

### ***Reason 4: The Growth of the Church***

The early church multiplied by involving people in groups that met regularly for worship, mutual support, and growth in faith. Today ChristCare Groups help our church grow by assimilating new members, evangelizing, preventing inactivity, and increasing attendance at Sunday worship.

**The ChristCare Series provides our congregation with...**

### ***A Sound Framework—A Flexible System***

For our ChristCare Group Ministry to work well and last, we need a strong yet adaptable system. With more than two decades of experience, Stephen Ministries knows how to structure ministry systems that work and last.

### ***Equipping and Training of Leaders***

"Training the trainer" helps us to ensure successful small group ministry. Key leaders from our congregation — called ChristCare Equippers — have the know-how and confidence to begin ChristCare Group Ministry and keep it going. Equippers use comprehensive manuals and resources from Stephen Ministries to recruit and train ChristCare Group Leaders and establish successful ChristCare Groups.

### ***Ongoing Support***

Stephen Ministries will provide ongoing support for Equippers through telephone consultation, the *ChristCare Equipper's Resource Pages* on the Stephen Ministries Web site, newsletters, special mailings, and a continuing supply of fresh ideas. They will help our Equippers and ChristCare Group Leaders keep our ChristCare Group Ministry responsive to our congregation's changing needs.