

# Campus Small Groups

*How to Strategically Facilitate Belonging on Your  
Campus*

**Presented By:**

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# TODAYS Overview

Who are We?

LifeGroups at Southern

Structured for Success

What are LifeGroups

What Works

Ministry Results

Questions for You



# Get to Know Us

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# **Allyson Boyce**  
Major: Outdoor Leadership-  
Adventure Therapy

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# **Zachary LeClerc**  
Major: Nursing

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# **Triniti Evans**  
Major: Theology

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# **Adam Bellis**  
Major: Social Work





# LifeGroups at Southern



In 2006, Southern launched a small group ministry with just one group. Since then, the ministry has grown to over 90 groups each semester.

## Mission

- ✦ Help each student to experience a meaningful sense of **belonging**.
- ✦ Create the environment to **behold** God personally and intimately.
- ✦ Empower students to **become** disciplemakers of Jesus.

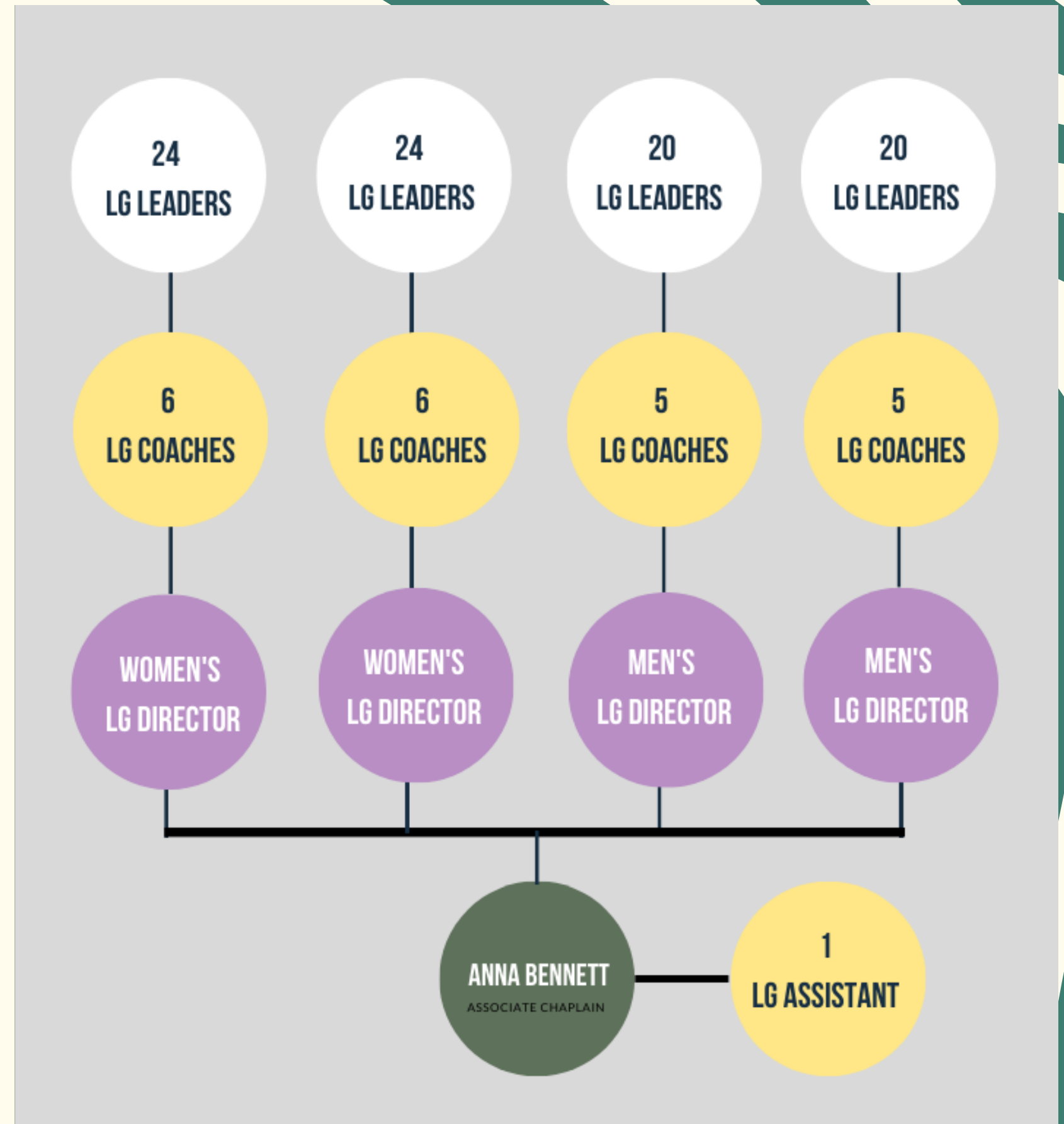
## Ministry Goals

- ✦ Foster the opportunity for students to experience spiritual transformation along the discipleship continuum.
- ✦ Engage 50% of undergraduate students in a LifeGroup.
- ✦ Develop leaders.



# Structured for Success

- Bottom-up support rather than top-down power ensures volunteer leaders can be successful
- A university financial investment for 27 student leader positions within LifeGroups (with plans to grow).
- Each LifeGroup Coach meets with four volunteer LifeGroup leaders each week to model, guide, envision, and equip each individual.
- We believe: The more a leader is invested in, the more they are able to lead a spiritually-transformative small group.



# What Works

Less is not more! We'd rather have:

- More LifeGroups with fewer people
- More content than a leader needs
- More support for leaders
- More variety & diversity to accurately reflect the diversity of campus

Offering six different kinds of LifeGroups:  
(Activity, Book-based, Bible study, Discipleship, Support, Topical)

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Mentoring & equipping LifeGroup leaders with resources

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Helping LifeGroup leaders set a vision for spiritually-transformative groups

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Affirming leaders in personalizing their LifeGroup

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Encouraging leaders to host their LifeGroup on a variety of days and times

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Connecting leaders with church members or faculty/staff who are interested in hosting a LifeGroup at their home

# What Works Well

Three primary areas we focus on:



## Training Our Coaches Well

We hire tough, train well, create community, and provide ongoing leadership development to coaches.



## Providing Weekly Support to LifeGroup Leaders

As coaches are poured into, they are equipped to make a meaningful investment in their mentees.

## Resourcing Our Leaders



Scan to view our website:  
[southern.edu/belong](https://southern.edu/belong)

# Ministry Results



976

38% of undergraduates  
Jan-May 2023



92

Number of LifeGroups  
Aug-Dec 2023

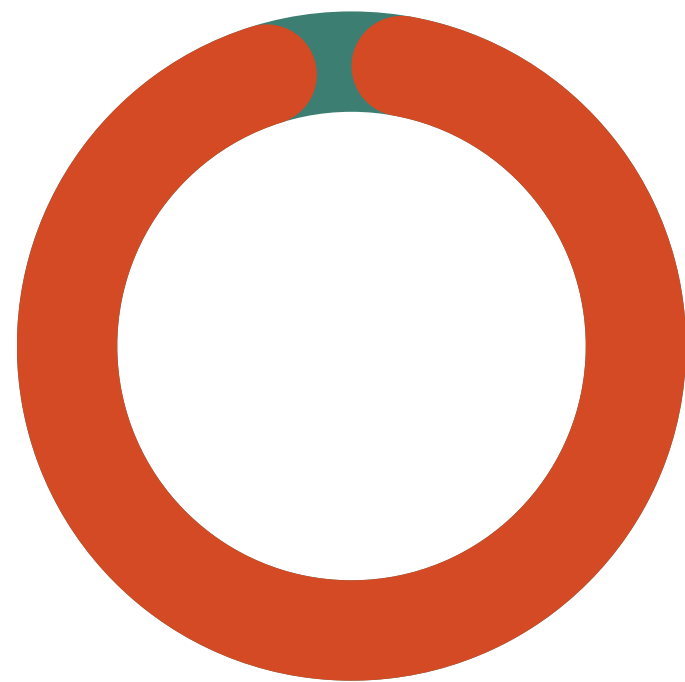




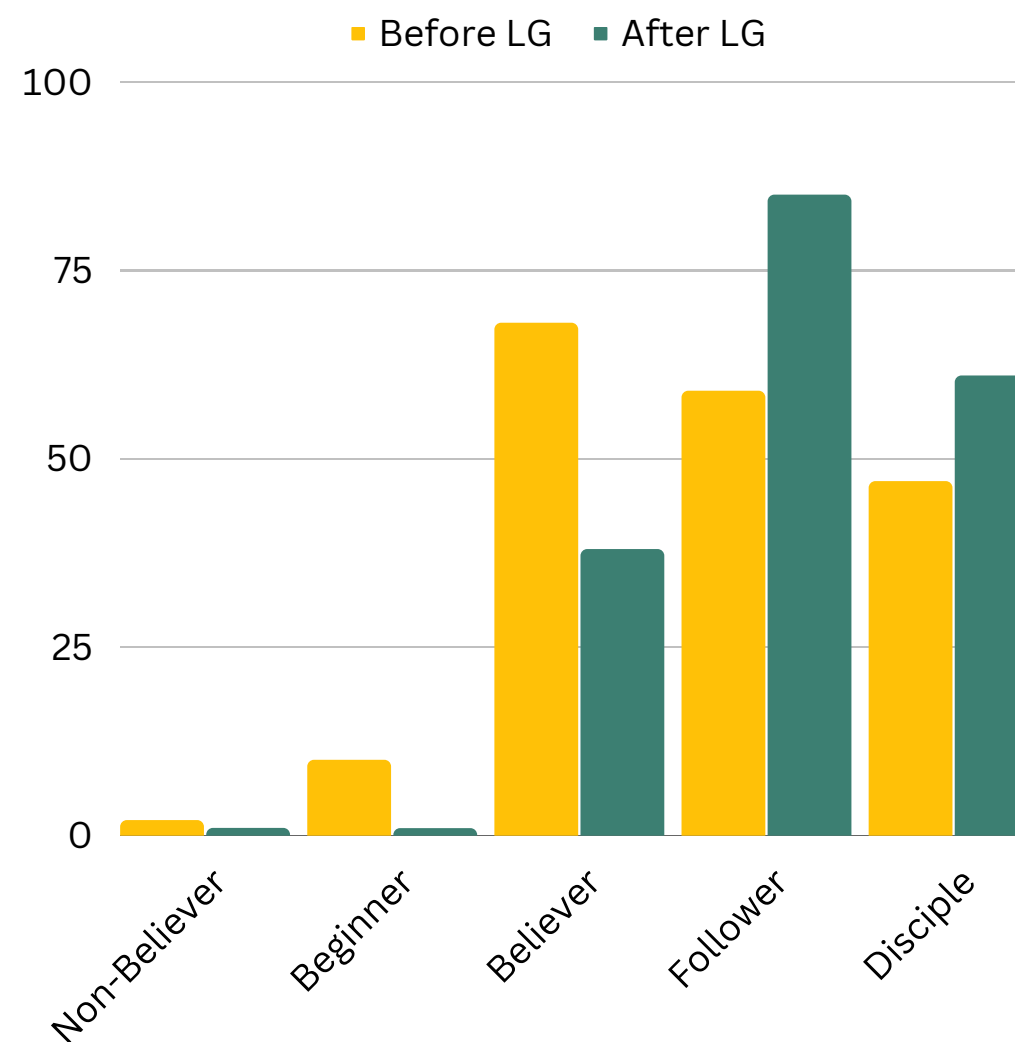
# Ministry Results



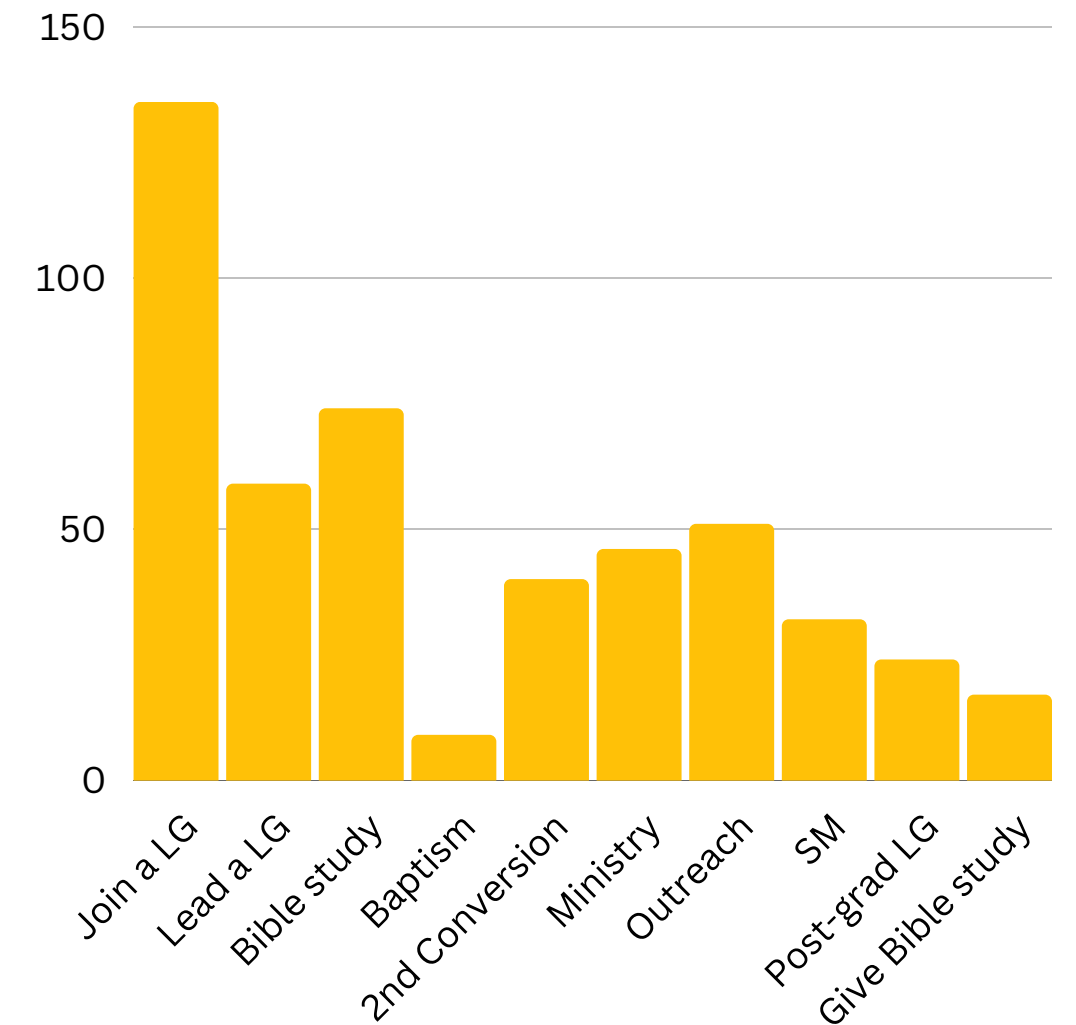
**Experienced Belonging**  
98% of survey responders



**Spiritual Transformation**  
75% of survey responders



**Inspired to Take Their Next Step**



\*186 survey responses in Winter 2023



# What's Your

- Your ministry context is different
  - Where are students already finding belonging on your campus?
- Your financial resources are different
  - Can you make a case for a strategic goal your campus might invest in?
- The size of your campus is different
  - Where are students struggling to find belonging?



# Next Step?

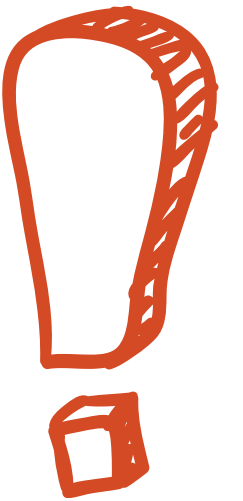
- What is one thing you can do to invest in your ministry leaders better?
- What is one way you can work to establish a system to give your ministry greater longevity?
- What resources do ministry leaders continuously ask for? How can you make these more accessible?



# Ask Us Anything

We're an open book.

*Measuring what's happening in our LifeGroup ministry is helpful because it shows us what's working, what's not, and what we can change. But what gets us really excited is testimonies of transformation.*



**We're still learning what works on our campus.**

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, during the pandemic, post-pandemic...it's changed us all but it hasn't changed our need for community, just increased it.



**We're not small group or mentorship experts.**

We just want to claim what Zech 4:6 says: "Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit," declares the Lord.



# Thank you for engaging with us!

We pray for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to fill up each of us as leaders as we partner with Him to create a meaningful sense of belonging on each of our campuses.

