

HALVORSEN MINISTRY UPDATE



Students on our annual Apple Picking trip

In the first floor living room of the main freshman dormitory at Simmons College, Rose and Mary (two new staff on our team) circle up a number of square blue sofa chairs around some yellow coffee tables on which they have set up snacks - cookies, popcorn, and the like. They make room for the eight to ten girls who usually show up to their weekly bible study, called Life Group, on Monday nights. Some arrive at the end of a long day filled with lectures or labs. Others come straight from dinner at the dining hall. They all arrive each week to connect and discuss spiritual things.

Life Groups form the core of many of Cru's on-campus communities. They are meant to be welcoming spaces for students of all backgrounds, both Christian and non-Christian, to explore faith through the Christian perspective. This fall, their group has been going through a series called [Life Concepts](#), which covers the basic principles of Christianity. The discussion has been rich this semester. Most of these students have contributed actively to conversations on a variety of topics such as eternal life, confession of sin, and the Holy Spirit. They have shared vulnerably their thoughts, questions, and feelings regarding what they believe. It has been fun to watch one of our first-year students, Kristine*, benefit from being a part of the space.

At the beginning of the year, Kristine regularly attended Life Group but rarely participated in discussion. Usually, when she arrived, she would seat herself in one of the chairs and not utter a peep. Instead, she quietly observed as group dialogue took place. More recently though, Kristine has been opening up. About a month ago, she mustered the courage to verbalize some of the doubts she had been experiencing when Rose and Mary invited students to share about their struggles with faith. In fact, she was the first to speak up, which took Mary by surprise. It turned out that despite growing up in a Christian home, Kristine never understood what her parents believed - but she earnestly wants to. Yet she didn't feel like she fit well enough into her faith community back home in order to seek answers to her questions. Now that she is in college, she has the opportunity to learn more genuinely about Christianity and she has found that opportunity through Life Group. She shared with us, "I am thankful that there are spaces like these where you can be vulnerable and ask questions without feeling ashamed. I didn't have that growing up."

We are so thankful for the way God is moving in the lives of students! Please continue to pray for them - that these Cru communities would continually be a safe place for students to grow in their knowledge and experience of God's truth and grace. Please continue to pray for our family, as Aaron transitions to software engineering and Jenn to part-time staff with Cru. Look forward to reading about Rose, our new Haitian Cru staff, in January's letter.

Jenn Halvorsen / 309 E Street #26, Boston, MA 02127/ give a gift at cru.org/give

Merry
Christmas



The Halvorsen Family | Aaron, Jenn, Evie, & Silas