



# COMMUNITY GROUPS

theCHURCH OF ARIZONA

## Real Life. Real People. Real Jesus

### February Leader Newsletter

***“The best gift you can give your members is to listen intently. When the leader has listened intently to answer, the group will know it... Perhaps a moment of silence will settle on the group. That’s ok!”***

***- Joel Comiskey. Facilitate: how to lead a life-giving small group.***

### **Leaders,**

We’ve all been there. You’ve asked a question and anticipate an immediate response from the group and... it’s crickets. PANIC! Or, we’ve over-anticipated and asked a question and then immediately answered it ourselves leaving no room for anyone else. Believe it or not, there is purpose and growth that can happen in the silence. It’s OK for there to be moments of quiet - no need to panic! Members may need some time to really digest the question or to give hard thought to how or if they respond.

***Purposeful pause on your part as a leader can be a great way to allow all members the chance to participate and even encourage those who might not talk much to have a voice.*** As leaders we often feel the pull of having to lead the conversation when in fact, allowing the space for your members to answer freely will encourage the conversation to flow to a place you might

have never imagined! The heart of Community Groups are relationships and those are formed through the sharing of everyone in the group. As leaders, be sure to use the pause when the time is right and not shy away from it! Give it a try the next few weeks and see how the group responds.

***Want to talk through this style of facilitating more?  
Call me! Let's grab coffee and dive in together.  
With love - Cassie***

## ***Announcements***

### **Round Valley Group Launch**

Our Round Valley Group has officially launched! We are so excited for the opportunity for community in this area. Help us spread the word of the group and if you see Jon and JoElla Younkin, our new leaders, offer them encouragement and prayer!

### **Groups Leadership Workshop**

The dates of our Groups Leadership Workshop have been tentatively set for May 17th! This year EACH leader will be encouraged to bring with them an apprentice leader from their group. ***Now is the time if you haven't already identified who in your group can do what you do!*** Have the conversations and be intentional about allowing others to lead each week. These apprentices will have an opportunity to be part of our first Apprenticeship Program that will be launched in 2025! This program will not only develop apprentices but will also teach and develop YOU as mentors.

# ***Kingdom Work Opportunities To Share!***

## **Easter Volunteer Appreciation**

Each year we say 'Thank You' to our Volunteers that are serving on Easter with a meal in our War Room! If you or your group would like to be involved with any of the setup, tear-down or contributing to the pot-luck style meal please email [Cassie@thechurchaz.org](mailto:Cassie@thechurchaz.org)

## **Second Service Prayer Team Needs**

Our Prayer Team is seeking Partnered Members who are comfortable praying openly and aloud with others at the end of Sunday Services. Applicants must love people, be theCHURCH Partners, be comfortable praying with and for others, be sensitive to potential prayer topics and able to use discretion and the utmost respect with others. Please inquire with interest via email to [Cassie@thechurchaz.org](mailto:Cassie@thechurchaz.org)

## **Adult Childcare Volunteers Needed**

Our childcare Ministry is in need of adults to assist with childcare during our groups and classes as well as childcare workers! These are paid opportunities. Background check and application required. Apply on our website at <https://www.tcaz.us/jointheteam> if interested.

# ***Groups Ministry Needs***

**We Need Group Leaders in the Show Low and Pinetop area.** Ideally those Groups are willing to include FAMILIES with CHILDREN! **(Do I sound like a broken record yet?)** As Group Leaders you have an opportunity to empower future leaders, to walk alongside them and partner with theCHURCH to show Godlike hospitality in your homes and communities. **This means stepping outside of your comfort zone and multiplying Community**

**Groups.** Not sure where to start? Let's talk. Enrolling in our New Apprenticeship Program for 2025 is a great start!

- **Your Part:** The goal for each of you this year is to raise up 1 (minimum) new Community Group Apprentice. ***Encourage a culture of multiplication within your groups. Allow members to lead with support, be active participants within the group and step into a position of ownership and accountability within the group.*** If every group can produce 1 new leader in 2023, we will have 42 Community Groups by this time next year, doubling our current capacity.
- **Waiting List:** We have a family with children in Lakeside and ANOTHER in Show Low with children that are waiting for a group. If you can facilitate either of these families, please let me know.

### **Real Numbers & Real People:**

- **Current Participation in the last 6 months:**
  - 21 Community Groups: 223 people engaged
  - 4 Women's Groups: 63 people engaged
  - 4 Men's Group: 50 people engaged
  - 1 Singles Group: 12 people engaged
  - 1 20 Somethings Group: 15 people engaged
  - 1 GriefShare Group: 20 People engaged
  - Group Leaders: 60

***I share these numbers each month to not only share our growth, but for you to see that you are a part of something bigger than your weekly group. Together we are sharing Jesus with hundreds of people all over this mountain - and we are just getting started!***

***Thank you all for your leadership and commitment to making disciples of Jesus Christ! As always, we are praying for all of you!***

***Blessing and love!***

*Cassie Chandler*  
Groups Director  
theCHURCH