

I will create a culture of belonging because people matter and life is difficult.

"Every person we lock eyes with is deeply loved and cherished by God. Everyone who walks through our doors is someone Jesus died for."

- **1. Be aware of what's going on in people's lives-** you can't care about what you don't know.
 - Find out what's going on in their life.
 - Ask leading questions like:
 - "How was your week?"
 - "Is there anything you are excited about?"
 - "Is there anything challenging happening in your world right now?"
 - Follow up on prayer requests.
 - Wish group members a happy birthday or anniversary.
- 2. Consider yourself a first responder- your role is to fill the gap when life gets difficult.
 - Look for opportunities to serve Group members in need.
 - Babysit for the couple that desperately needs a date night or the single mom that got called in for a surprise shift at work
 - Set-up a calendar to provide meals for the family who just had a baby.
 - Change your plans to attend the unexpected funeral.
- **3. Know and set realistic limits-** providing care is not the same as being the caregiver.
 - No one expects you to be Dr. Phil, so acknowledge what you don't know.
 - Don't be a lone ranger. Care is everyone's job.
 - Let a staff member know what's going on so we can partner with you and share the load.
 - We have counseling and community resources that may be helpful given the situation.

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things."