COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER TRAINING

What Care Looks Like in Community Groups

EMERGENCE COMMUNITIES

Christian friendship,
wise boundaries, and shared care.

November 15, 2026

The Greenhouse: How Disciples Grow

We stay within the 4 walls of the Greenhouse to grow as disciples.

Groups are a primary environment where relationships help people follow Jesus.



Five characteristics we are cultivating

01 **CONNECTED in Community**

02 **GROWING in Christ**

03 **INVITING New People**

04 **SUSTAINING Simple Rhythms**

05 **MULTIPLYING Leaders and Groups**

Care should look like “normal Christian friendship”

Care is something group members share - not a burden one leader carries.

Leaders

Model it, notice needs, help connect people.

Members

Show up, pray, encourage, and help one another.

1. COMPASSION

Mark 6:34

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

We want to lead with a heart of compassion in all we do

2. (EN) COURAGEMENT

Hebrews 10:24–25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Check in • Pray together • Remind one another of truth • Keep showing up • Speak life

3. CORRECTION

James 5:19–20

My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Speak truth in love • Seek restoration • Walk alongside

PAUSE & REFLECT

When has friendship been a blessing to you?

Think of someone you would consider a really good friend. Why would you say that of them?

Pair up. Share for one minute each.

Friendship alone cannot always meet every need

Christian friendship is not the same thing as unlimited responsibility.

A friend may help	Giving, listening, and practical support can be loving.
A group cannot be everything	It cannot become someone’s ongoing financial system or therapy session.
Referral is still care	Continue friendship while connecting people with the right help.

Four pathways to additional care

BENEVOLENCE	Significant financial need
COUNSELING REFERRAL NETWORK	Deeper or ongoing emotional and relational care
R&R	Addiction or life-controlling issues
PASTORAL SUPPORT	A leader needs guidance, a next step, or a crisis situation

We connect people, and still stay connected

SEE THE PERSON

Listen, show compassion, and ask what would be helpful.

CONNECT TO SUPPORT

Work through the appropriate church care pathway.

KEEP SHOWING UP

Continue friendship, prayer, and appropriate check-ins.

“You don’t have to meet every need to genuinely care for someone.”

When a leader needs help, bring staff in

You do not need to have all the answers or carry a difficult situation alone.

Ordinary questions

Ask your pastoral contact for guidance.

Safety concerns

Take prompt action and involve appropriate help.

When someone’s safety may be at risk

IMMEDIATE DANGER

Suicidal or homicidal danger, or other imminent threats:

Call 911. Do not wait for staff.

CHILD ABUSE / NEGLECT

Reasonable suspicion in New Jersey:

Report to DCPP, 1-877-652-2873, and notify church leadership.

Leaders are not expected to investigate, diagnose, or manage a crisis themselves.

Care includes acting when a life is at risk

Protect privacy. Do not promise secrecy when someone may be unsafe.

“Protecting someone’s life is not a betrayal of their trust. It’s the deepest form of honoring it.”

NOTICE	Do not dismiss a safety concern.
NOTIFY	Involve pastoral leadership promptly.
ACT	Follow emergency or mandated-reporting steps.
STAY IN YOUR ROLE	Let qualified responders and staff take the lead.

SAY: “I care too much about you to risk your safety. I’m going to get some additional help right now.”

Wrapping Up...

COMPASSION	See people and move toward them.
(EN)COURAGEMENT	Build one another up in Christ.
CORRECTION	Love enough to speak truth in love.

Care is shared friendship. When needs go beyond the group, connect people with help.

Open floor: what questions do you have?

Ask about anything we covered today, or any other questions!