

Aaron and Cindy Brubaker: *It's All About Connection*



Aaron and Cindy Brubaker are a part of the Summit ABF at GC. They are enthusiastic and grateful for relationships and connections they've established in this welcoming and friendly ABF.

Time to Connect

Cindy: We had been going to The Chapel for a while, and our children had started getting involved, and we wanted to have more of a connection to church and feel more a part of a group.

Aaron: We had been saying to ourselves for a number of years, "Hey, you know what? We really have got to do an ABF. We've *really* got to do an ABF." We had been looking for quite some time. We decided it was time to look for some deeper relationships. We got involved because we wanted to establish some relationships with other Christian couples. When you go to the service, it's great to hear the teaching, but just developing the bonds with others was really important to us. You get that connection in a small-group setting, and that's really why we started our search.

How We Got Involved

Cindy: A friend of mine that I worked with, Holly, was involved in an ABF and I had been expressing to her that I really was interested in trying an ABF. And she said, "Well, you've got to come to mine. It is so fun, and we just love it. If you decide to come, I will go with you."

First Day Jitters

Cindy: There were people there to greet us and I was very nervous. And I thought, "Oh gosh, everybody's here, and knows each other and I stand out." But everyone was so friendly and welcoming.

Aaron: Coming in the first day was pretty neat. A couple people working at the front desk, shaking your hand, and giving you a name badge. People were extremely friendly. We had at least three or four couples that introduced themselves right away. People were very warm, and we had a lot of fun. It was very relaxing.

Cindy: Right, and we didn't feel like we were intruding on an already-established group. We were very welcomed. I didn't feel put on the spot; I didn't feel like I had to speak if I didn't want to. It wasn't cliquy. It was very warm. It was relaxed and genuine. So we wanted to go back!

Aaron: Yeah, they even remembered our names when we went back the second time.

Cindy: We were real impressed with that!

Aaron: And then we realized we had name badges on...so... (laughs)

Why We Stay

Cindy: I enjoy the teaching very much, but I enjoy the relationships that I have made throughout the class. And I find myself thinking of these people through the week! Wondering how they're doing, they maybe had expressed a concern. We receive prayer requests and praises by email, and I truly take that seriously. When someone is sick or there's been a death, you get a lot of support. We take meals to people. We've had projects where we've built a room in a home for someone with a disability. Those kinds of things.

Aaron: The teaching really reinforces what we learn in the service. We break into small groups and discuss how it relates to you, getting different perspectives from others. You just feel like you're going to continue to grow. Yeah, that's the awesome part about it. We are so glad we became a part of the Summit ABF.