

# MARCO POLO AS A TOOL FOR CONVERSATION PRACTICE

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October 23, 2021  
MIDTESOL Conference

# ABOUT ME

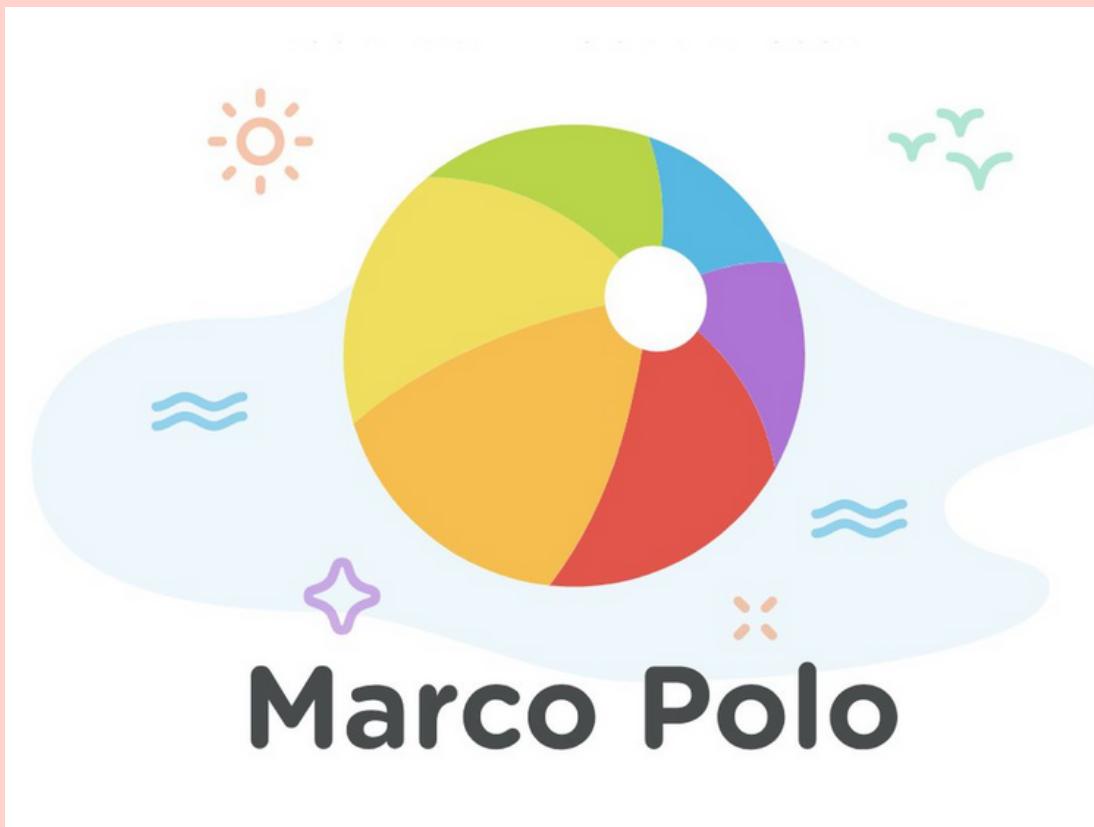


- I've taught adult ESL in a variety of contexts for over 15 years
- I have my MA in TESOL from Azusa Pacific University
- I now teach virtual English classes through my own company, Anderson Language Center

# WORKSHOP OUTLINE

- Overview of Marco Polo app
- How to use Marco Polo as a class conversation tool
- Hands-on practice with Marco Polo
- Questions

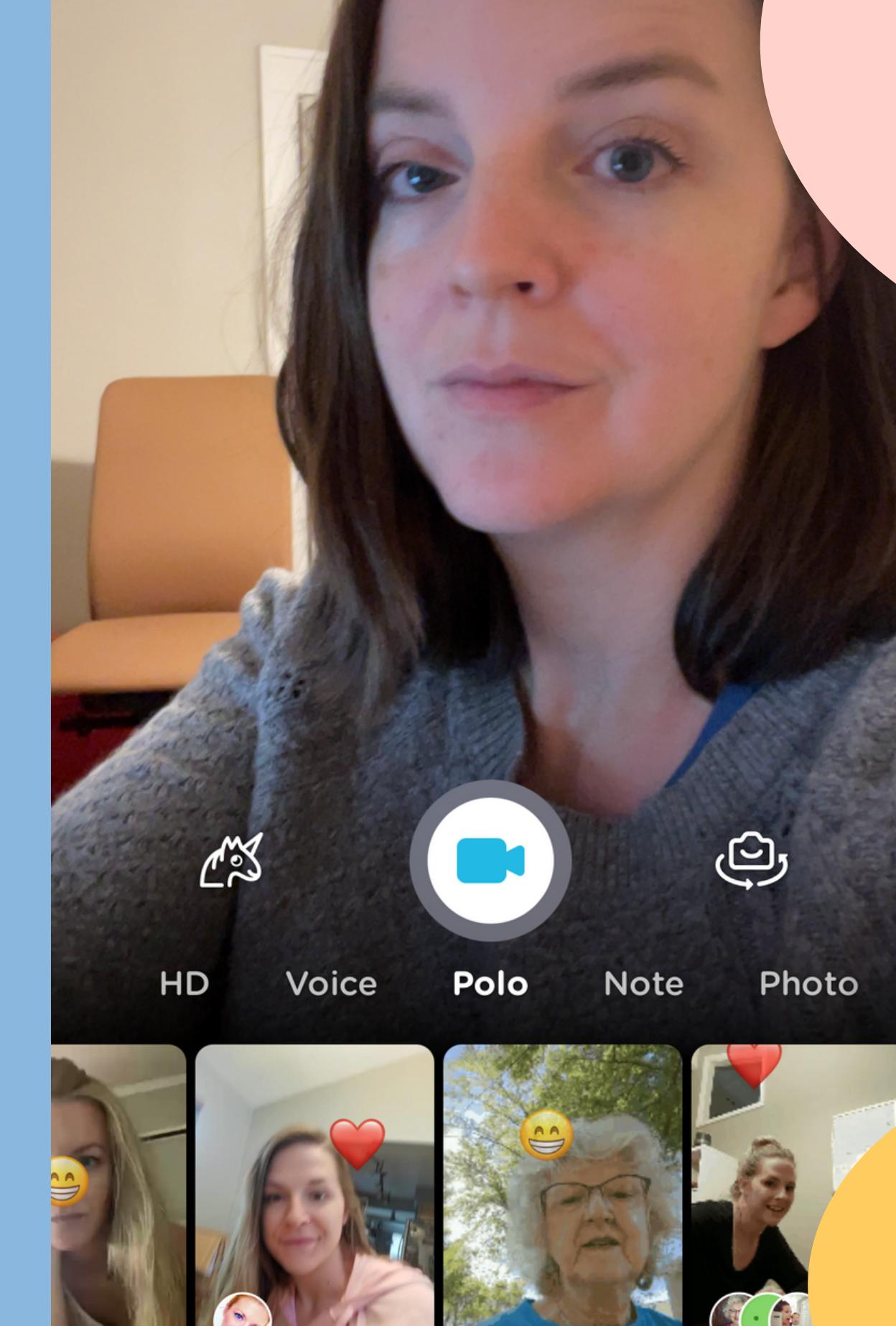
# WHAT IS MARCO POLO?



- Video messaging app
- Simple to use
- Designed to be used by friends and family
- Messages can be viewed at any time
- Messages can be shared with an individual or group

# HOW CAN MARCO POLO WORK FOR MY CLASS?

- Form pairs or small groups for conversation practice
- Students can leave messages, listen, and reply whenever they have time
- Teacher can introduce topics and participate in groups as much or little as needed



Visible



10:33

Friday, October 22



MESSAGES

39m ago

Ethan Anderson

\$12 billion

1 more message

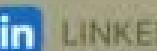


ASANA

57m ago

⚠️ Update your 1 overdue task

Mark as complete or add a comment to share your progress with teammates in andersonlanguage.com



LINKEDIN

1h ago

LinkedIn

Nik Peachey shared a post: MOBILE APPS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING <https://bit.ly/3aTfSiB> #esl #efl #elt #tesol #eal #tefl #edtech #MLearn

Notification Center



22



AR



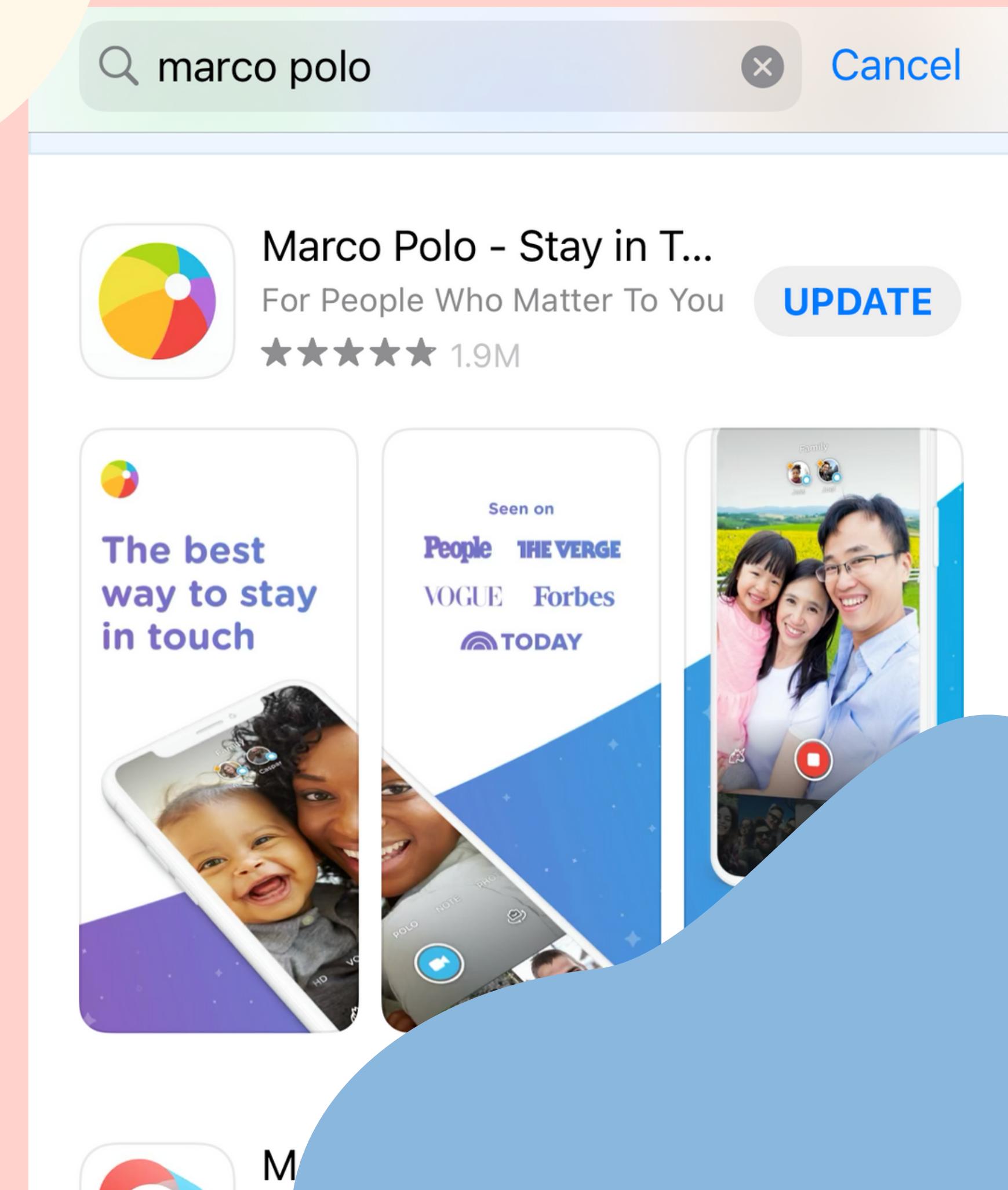
PM

Abel's birthday party

Today at 5:30 PM

# MARCO POLO - STEP BY STEP

Search "marco polo" in your phone's app store. Download app.

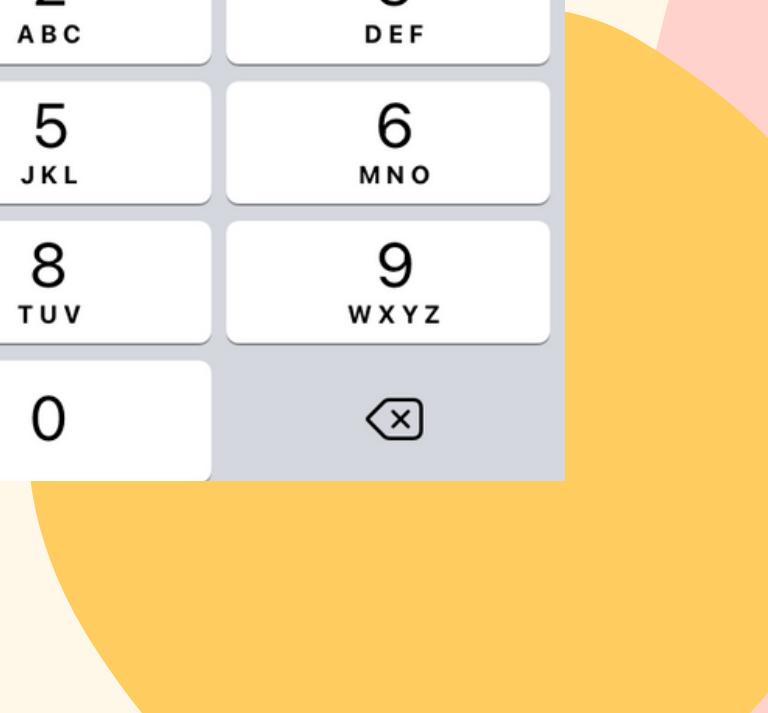


Enter your phone number

United States +1 ▾

Verify phone number via SMS

By continuing, you agree to our [Terms](#) and acknowledge receipt of the information in our [Privacy Policy](#) and that Joya will process your personal information as described in that [Policy](#). Message and data rates may apply.



1	2 ABC	3 DEF
4 GHI	5 JKL	6 MNO
7 PQRS	8 TUV	9 WXYZ
+ * #	0	✖

# Enter your phone number.

Choose to allow or deny access your phone's contacts.

Enter verification code sent to your phone.

MENSAJES

605-71

Your Marco Polo code is 9779

ahora

Enter verification code

Code sent to +1 713-903-5867

[Change number](#)

No code? Request a new one in 54s.

De la app Mensajes  
9779

1	2 ABC	3 DEF
4 GHI	5 JKL	6 MNO
7 PQRS	8 TUV	9 WXYZ
0	✖	

# IMPORTANT!

Enjoy Plus  
with friends  
or family



Marco Polo **Plus Family**

- Add up to 5 people, friends or family.
- Upgrade to get 1.5x-3x speed control, Photo Polos, custom emojis, and more!
- \$119.99/year (\$10/month)

Continue

Close this window to  
decline Marco Polo Plus  
and continue with the  
free version.

# TO JOIN THE GROUP

Follow these steps to join the Marco Polo practice group I created for teachers:

**1**

Finish downloading  
Marco Polo on your  
phone or mobile device

**2**

Using your phone or  
mobile device, go to  
[andersonlanguage.com/teachers](http://andersonlanguage.com/teachers)

**3**

Click the link under the  
heading  
Marco Polo  
Practice Group

# LEAVE A VIDEO MESSAGE IN THE GROUP

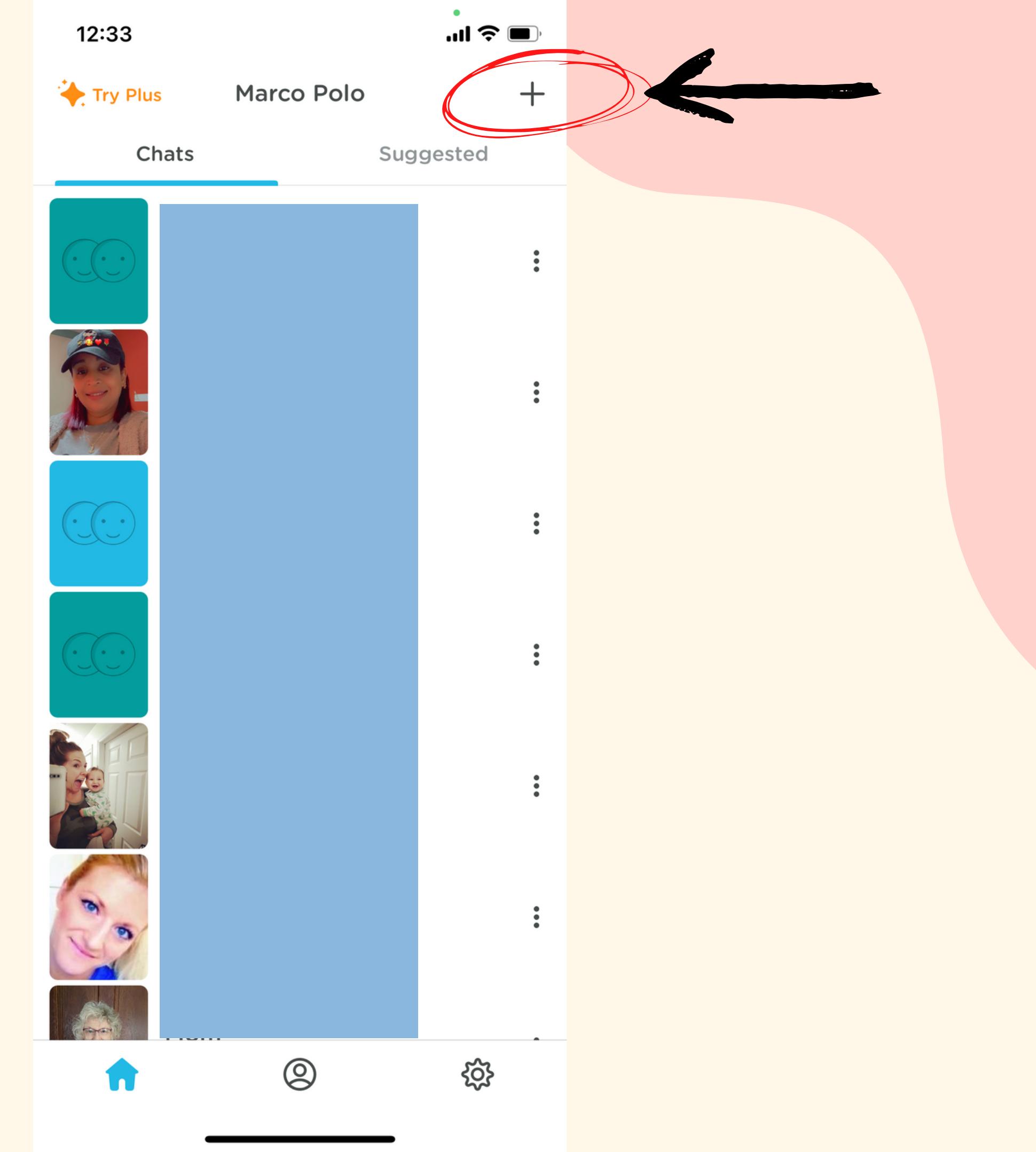
Introduce yourself and ask questions or share ideas--everyone who participates at any time during the next week will be entered in a fun PRIZE DRAWING!

# CREATING YOUR OWN MARCO POLO GROUP(S) FOR STUDENTS

After you feel comfortable using Marco Polo on your own, follow these steps to set up a conversation group/groups for students

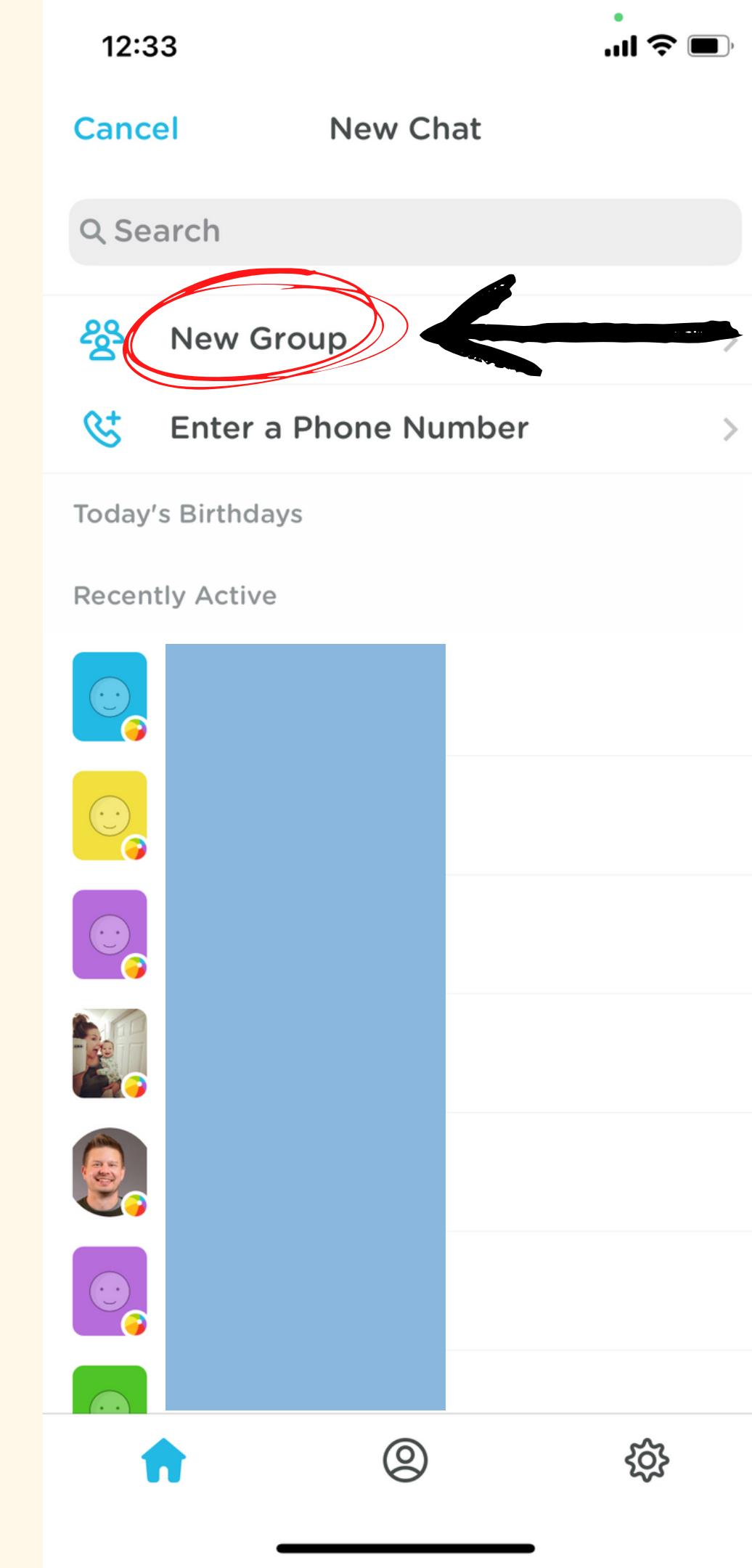
# STEP 1:

Click on the + in the top right corner of your Marco Polo home screen.



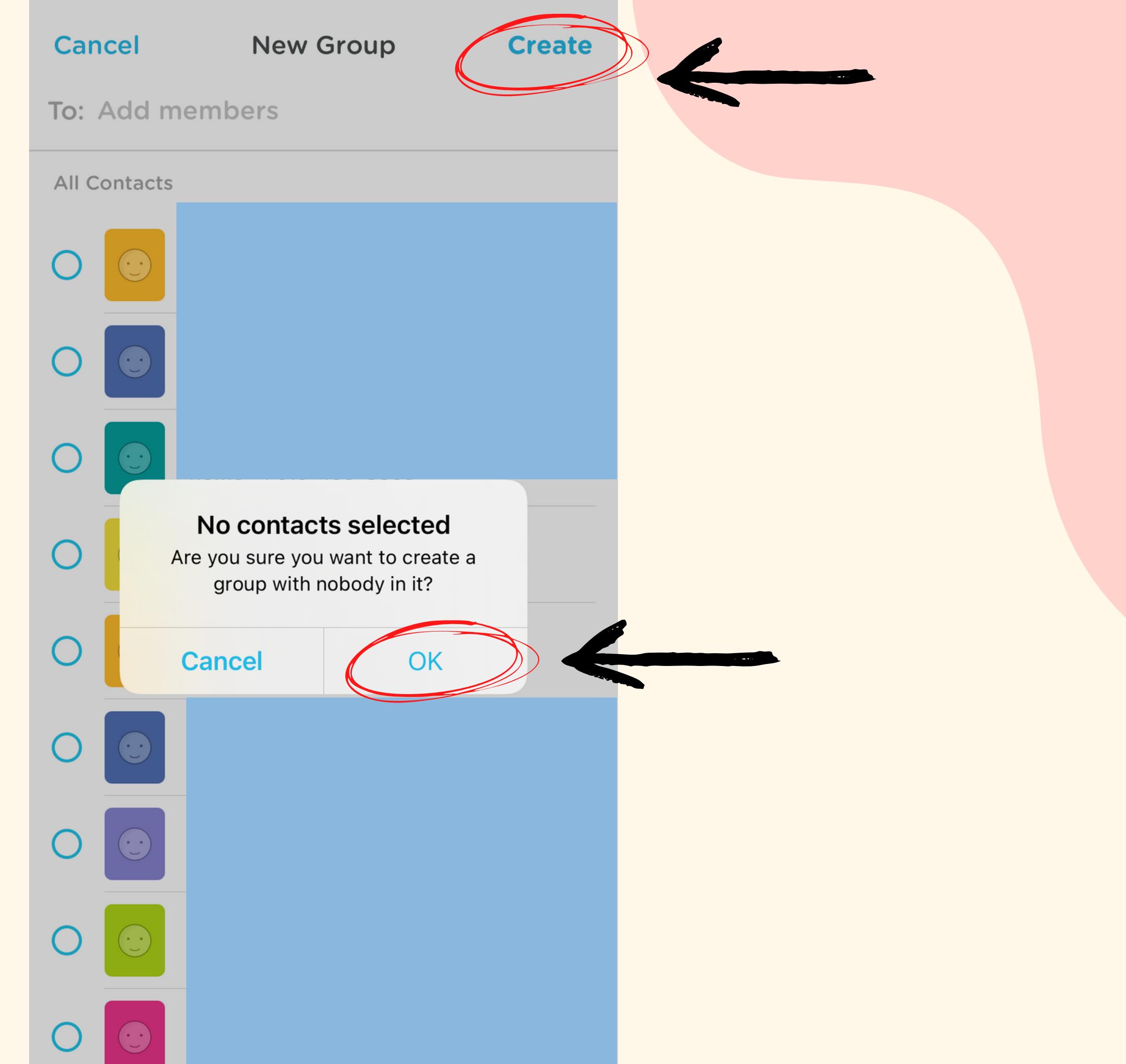
# STEP 2:

Click on New Group.



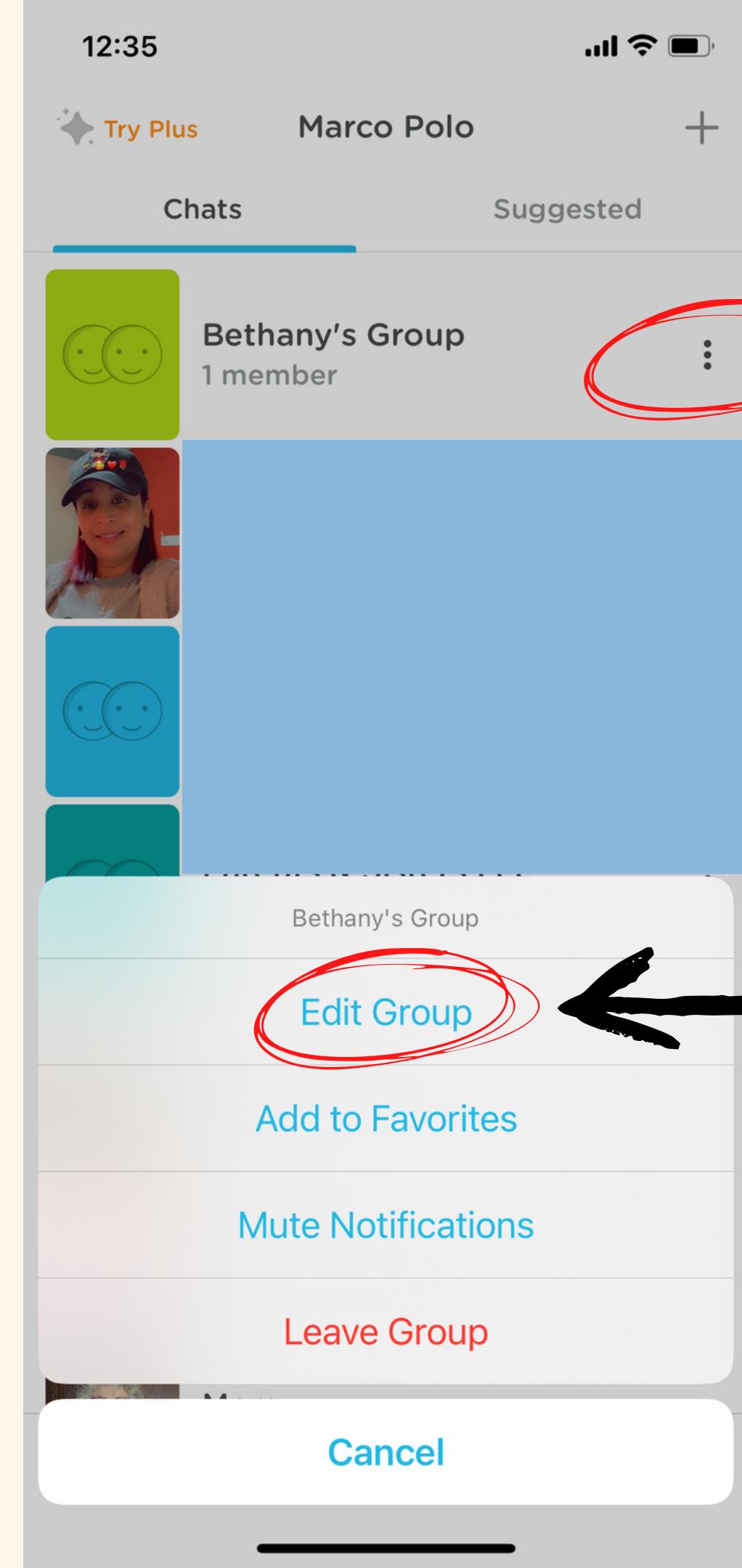
# STEP 3:

Click **Create**, then **OK**.



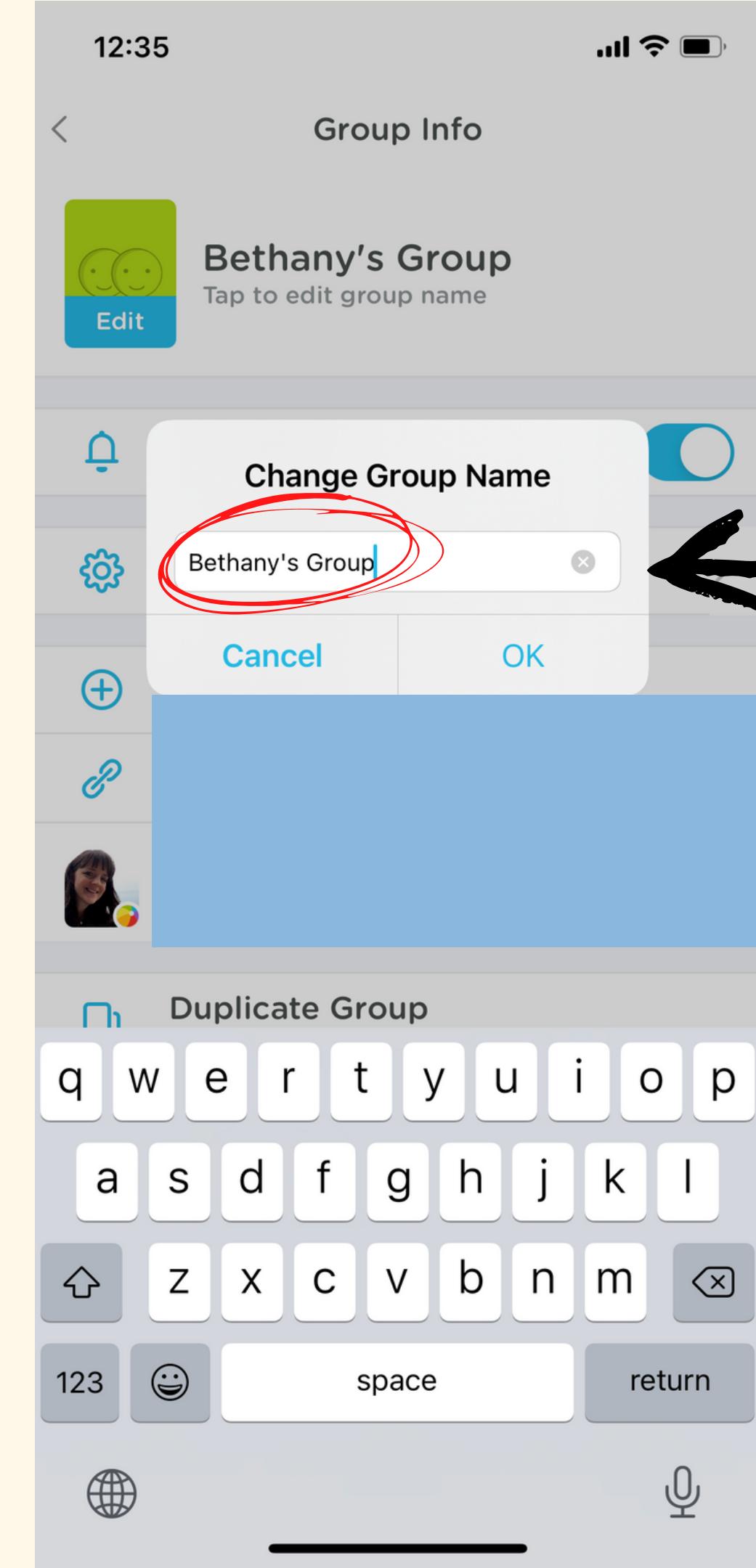
# STEP 4:

Click on the three dots, then  
Edit Group.



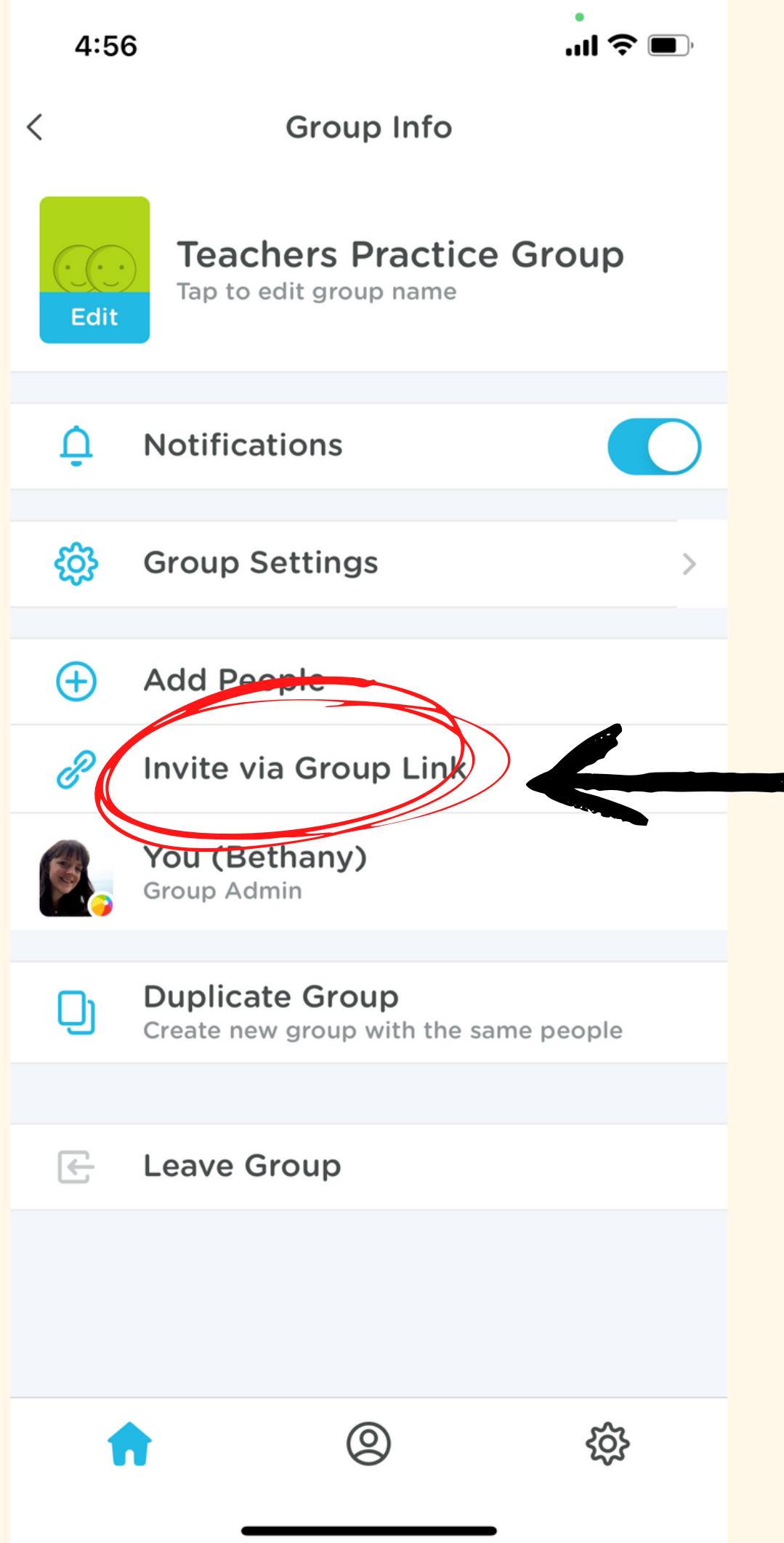
# STEP 5:

Type in the new name for your group, then click OK.



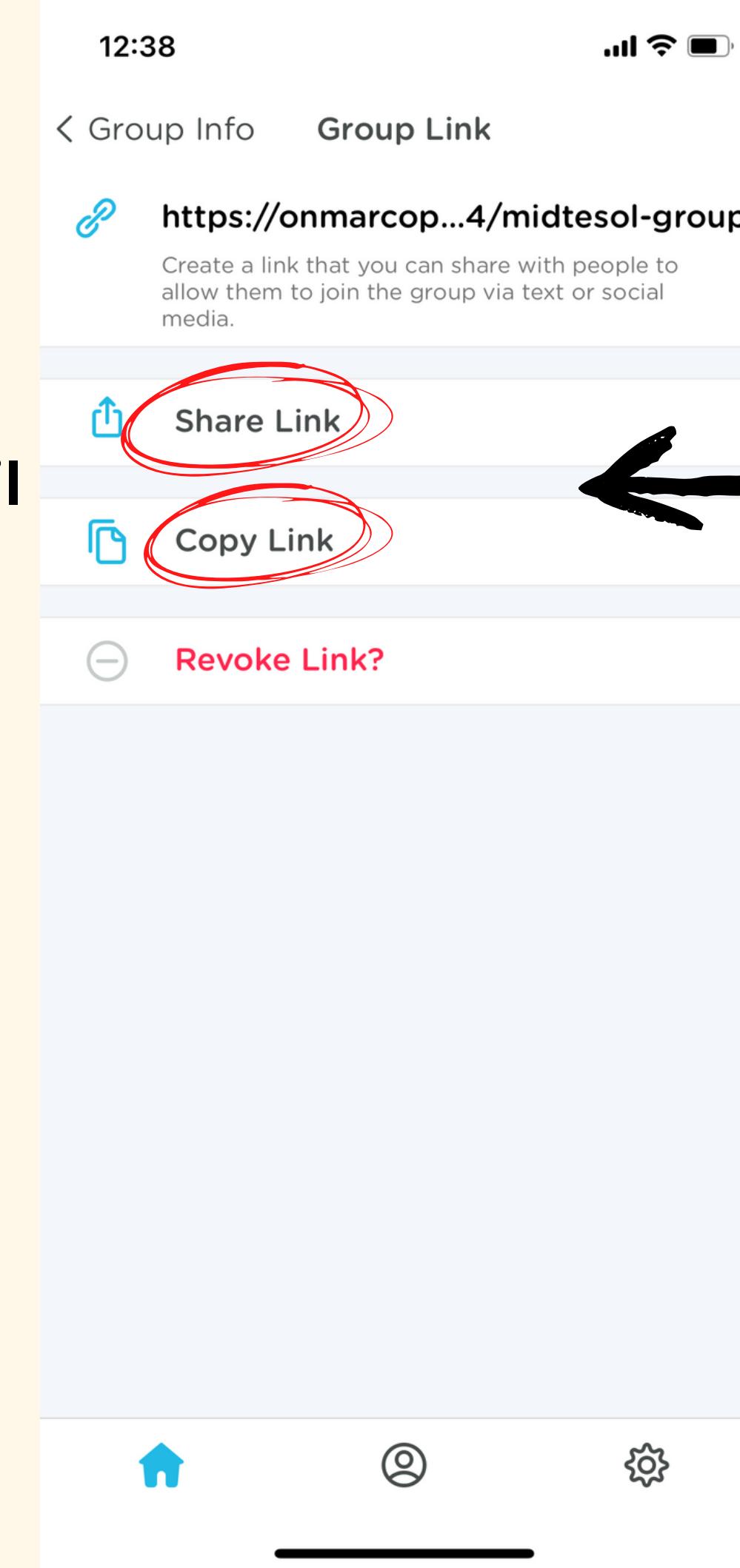
# STEP 6:

**Click on the three dots next to your group name, then click Edit Group, then Invite via Group Link.**



# STEP 7:

**Click on Share Link or Copy Link to share group with students via email or other platform.**



# CAVEAT:

Marco Polo is designed for use by friends and family, not as a class tool. Using the app without sharing personal phone numbers requires a creative "workaround" (achieved by following the previous steps).

I chose this app for its simplicity and ease of use which are ideal for students who may be uncomfortable with new technology.

If your students are comfortable exploring new apps and tech tools, you may want to try out VoiceThread, a similar app that is designed for educational settings but is not quite as easy to use.

# **THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!**

Feel free to email me with additional questions:  
**[bethany@andersonlanguage.com](mailto:bethany@andersonlanguage.com)**

**website: [andersonlanguage.com/teachers](http://andersonlanguage.com/teachers)**