

## CROSSCURRENT ETHICS AND BOUNDARIES FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS

The role of the small group leader in the CrossCurrent program is a very important one. It is the leader's responsibility to facilitate the small group and relate to each member in a clear, holy, and objective manner. In order to carry out this task, the small group leader must clearly understand what is and is not his/her role and responsibility.

It helps for the small group leader to understand tendencies toward codependency. By this we mean the tendency to feel responsible to fix, take care of, or to parent a person in his or her small group who may consciously or unconsciously demand it. A codependent leader will attempt to unhealthily get one's identity and self-esteem from playing the role of the strong, problem-solving counselor and from relieving the pain of group members.

Please be aware of any tendency toward codependency and remain objective when tempted to take responsibility for the group members' feelings or actions. The goal is always to call group members into taking responsibility for themselves.

One good way to counteract codependency is to make sure that your needs are being met. Please seek help from your coordinator when feeling confusion or losing objectivity about the group or a particular member. Be accountable to your coordinator when feeling any romantic or sexual attraction to someone in the group.

Please understand that leading the small group is a role-defined position and not a friendship. Small group leaders must promise not to socialize or to seek friendship with anyone in their small group for the entire program. The role of the assistant small group leader is to help the group leader in whatever way the leader wishes. The assistant is in the role of an apprentice and a learner. We ask that the assistant be accountable to the small group leader primarily and then to a coordinator if necessary. Assistants are required to abide by the same boundaries and ethics listed above.

**I have read, understand, and commit to be faithful to the above boundaries and ethics during my involvement in this program.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_