

## **About <Our Group>**

First, thanks for being part of <our group.> It's really great that you are.

In <our group>, we think it is very important to keep young people safe. This means we will have certain ways we do things, and other things we don't do at all. Anyone who helps with <your group> will learn about these in 'PresSafe Training.' In fact, anyone who helps with your group will need to have a Blue Card and be approved by this church before they can help.

### **Permission**

We need your parent or guardian to give permission for you to attend <this group>. We will also get them to give us contact and medical information for you, because this information really matters. They also need to say how photos or videos of you may be used as well as how you are contacted.

### **Getting In Contact With You**

In <this group>, we care about you. That means, you can expect your leader to be in contact with you outside of group time:

- To tell you about things that are happening with the group;
- To check-in and see how you're doing;
- To encourage you or ask how they can be praying for you.

They might do this as part of a group chat (like Facebook Messenger, if you're all over 13) or it might be a direct message. The Ministry Coordinator, Youth Pastor or person in charge of all groups is advised whenever contact is made with any person in the group (but not everything that was said.) This is how we do things to make sure kids are safe. If you don't have a phone, or use social media, that OK. They will work with your parents to find a way to be in touch.

**BUT** If a leader, or anyone, is being secretive in how they contact you, (especially avoiding your parents or the Ministry Coordinator) it is really important you tell someone. Basically, any time a leader is in contact with you, someone else should know it is happening or has happened.

A leader will never:

- Ask you to send you photos of yourself (unless it is showing off a gross injury in the group!)
- Contact you on SnapChat or WhatsApp, or any platform where messages can disappear or are very difficult to track. They also shouldn't contact you by private video call.
- Ask you to meet secretly without the knowledge of your parents or the Ministry Coordinator.
- Use words or images that are threatening, abusive or inappropriate.

At any point, if anyone (a leader or even a friend in your group) is making you feel uncomfortable or weird in how they contact you, talk to your parents and the Ministry Coordinator. If someone is sending you weird messages or photos, take a screenshot or recording.

### **Meeting Together**

When <our group> hangs out together, your leader is supervising you, so please let them know where you are!

At all times, in <our group> or otherwise, you are in charge of how people can be in physical contact with you. Your leader should be respecting you in that.

Your leader should not be in frequent close physical contact with you, particularly if it makes you feel threatened, embarrassed or you feel like you can't easily get away. If there is any secretive behaviour, that is also a problem, so please, let your parents or Ministry Coordinator know.

If anything happens to you, where you are at risk of harm or have been harmed, your leaders will not be able to keep that to themselves. They have a responsibility to keep you safe and will need to pass that information on to others who can help keep you safe.

### **You Are Valuable**

You matter to us, you matter to God, and while you are with <our group>, we want to do our very best to look after you, encourage you and share life with you. So we're looking forward to hanging out together!