

Physical/Sexual Abuse & Suicide

We take both physical and sexual abuse very seriously and desire that every situation would be handled with the utmost care and sensitivity. For that to happen, the following procedures need to take place.

Abuse Response

With the sensitive and serious nature that comes with abuse, small group time is not the place we want students to share these personal situations. You can do one of the following:

1. Ask the student if they are able to stay afterwards to talk about it in more detail
2. Release your small group 10 minutes early to discuss with that student in more detail
3. If you have 2 leaders in the group, 1 leader can step out of the room to talk privately with them, as the other continues to lead the group

Then...

1. Listen to the student and allow them to unpack their pain/hurt. Don't try to fix them.
2. Ask great questions such as these:
 - a. Have you told anyone else about this?
 - b. When did the abuse last take place?
 - c. Do you feel like you are in immediate danger?

Suicide Response

We believe it is healthy for students to talk about it within the safety net of small groups.

1. Listen to the student and allow them to unpack their pain and hurt. Don't try to fix them.
2. Ask great questions such as these:
 - a. Are you having suicidal thoughts?
 - b. Have you told your parents about this?
 - c. Do you have a plan to hurt yourself?

Next Steps for Abusive/Suicidal Situations

1. Notify your direct staff contact or lead team member ASAP
 - a. Every accusation of abuse must be communicated to staff or lead team immediately and before the student leaves youth group.
 - b. If you are with a student outside of youth group and they share with you that they are being abused, contact your staff or lead team that day.
 - c. If your direct contact is unavailable, contact **Heath Fagan at 208-871-4762.**