



DURING A CRISIS

These questions are for you, the Small Group leader, to immediately and directly ask a student when they share sensitive information with you. The answers to these questions will help you and Student Ministry staff to assess what actions, if any, need to be taken.

Abuse (Being harmed by others)

- “WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAY _____?”
- “Who has done this?”
- “What specifically did they do?”
- “When did this happen?”
- “Do you **still feel threatened**?”
- “Are you **still in contact** with this person?”
- “Do your **parents** know? Have you told anyone?”

Harm to Self (Big Four):

- “WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU SAY _____?”
- “When was the **last time** you _____?”
- “Do you **still** _____? Are you having thoughts/temptations to _____?”
- “Do your **parents** know? Have you told anyone?”

Harm to Others (includes intention to harm others as well as driving while under the influence):

- “WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAY _____?”
- “Do you have a **specific plan** on how to _____?”
- “**When** will you be around this person? When will you see them next?”

IF THERE IS **CURRENT OR POTENTIAL DANGER OR HARM**, THEN **IMMEDIATELY**:

1. **Thank the student** for trusting you enough to share and having the courage to speak up.
2. **Gather more information.** Ask the student questions to learn more and make sure you have contact information for them and a guardian. Top question to ask: “What do you mean when you say _____?”
3. **Inform the student** that because you care for their safety and well-being, this is something you need to share with Student Ministry staff. Informing the student that you will let them know beforehand anytime you have to share this information with others builds trust.
4. **Bring Student Ministry staff in the conversation ASAP.** Find a staff member onsite and walk with the student to pull them aside OR if a staff member is not present, call them immediately. That staff member can then walk alongside you and the student through next steps.



Safe Zone Procedure

The following flow chart guides you through the process of what to do when a student shares something that leads you to believe that they're being harmed, harming themselves or possibly harming others.

