

# Catalyst Teen Ministry

## Expectations and Guidelines

### **1. Catalyst teen ministry is a safe place.**

This means that teens would ideally be able to attend church, class, trips, fun activities, and expect that they will not be hurt physically, emotionally, or spiritually. Therefore we encourage hugs, smiles, compliments, and unconditional love. There are a few things that are not tolerated to promote a safe place: put downs, gossip, violence, judgmental attitude, destructive behavior, smart remarks. The goal of this statement is to provide a place where teens know that they are loved and accepted. Our hope is that when teens feel this safety, they will believe that Christianity is authentic and they will open their hearts to the Lord.

### **2. Everyone is welcome.**

Catalyst teen ministry is not a “sterile Christian bubble.” It is a place where non-believers can come and experience the possibility of having a relationship with God. Therefore, teens who smoke, cheat, lie, drink, take drugs, belong to gangs, disobey their parents and sleep with their boyfriend/girlfriend are welcome. However, they are not welcome to do these things while they are with our group. Teens who are involved in these things will not be looked down on or treated differently from others. Rather they will be loved, challenged and encouraged to fall in love with Jesus. Luke 15:2 *“But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”*

### **3. Our goal is to become more like Christ.**

The ultimate purpose for every activity our group does is to help teens fall more in love with God. Every class taught, trip taken, and event planned should be done with this as the goal either directly or indirectly.

### **4. Our group represents Christ**

The way our group acts while in public should reflect the image of God. Therefore, our group should act differently compared to other groups. Several ways that we should be different is in our behavior, speech, dress, and attitudes toward others.

### **5. Miscellaneous Expectations**

These expectations are expanded when a particular area becomes a concern and needs more definition to the above guidelines.

#### **Modesty**

One thing about dress if you are not modest we will ask you to change or have clothes available for you to cover up with. (Definition of modest: Are the clothes being worn drawing attention to a particular area?) In general if you cannot appropriately wear your garments to school then they should not be worn to youth group. I Tim. 2:9, *“I also want women to dress modestly...”* I Pet. 3:4, *“You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within...”*

#### **Texting**

Recently texting during class has become a critical area of concern. We will begin gathering cell phones if the phone is not away during worship, Bible study, and other important times.

### **No media devices**

Personal electronic devices are not allowed at any activity or event unless otherwise noted by Lantz before the event. These devices promote a self-centered environment and we want to build community. Personal devices take away from building community and fellowship among one another. Ex. iPods, PSPs are not allowed or any other personal device. Cell phones are the exception, as long as they are being used for the right reasons. (To call parents.) Most phones have many other uses; please refrain from using the certain applications during specific times (iTunes, Internet, YouTube, etc). Psalm 18:1, *"An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends; he defies all sound judgment."*

Seat belts **must be worn** in all vehicles for all activities at all times.

### **LRJ (Leave room for Jesus)**

No kissing, touching, etc. Dating in the teen group is not discouraged (we hope and pray that you will date and marry a Christian mate) However, teen group events are not "dates." Therefore, male/female couples are not allowed to be alone in a room or on a walk or in any other capacities. This is considered a prudent step in promoting sexual purity. We are on these events to get to know Christ better not the opposite sex. I Tim 4:2, *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."*

### **Be respectful to adults.**

Participants are expected to recognize the authority and responsibility of the adult leaders by obeying instructions and showing proper respect. This includes the adult leaders of other churches that may be in attendance.

### **Signing up for events and deposits.**

Once you sign up for an event you are committing to attend. Your commitment is crucial to the planning of any event and the cost of the event. All deposits will **NOT** be refunded if you choose to cancel. If you commit to a major event your payment in full will be expected. (Death in the family or serious illness is the exception.)

Before most events general guidelines will be laid out for the group. Anyone who breaks these guidelines (especially Rules 1-4 listed above) may be dismissed from an activity and sent home at the expense of their parents.

I have read the above guidelines and agree to follow.

Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_