

WOMEN OF COURAGE PRINCIPLES FOR GROUP COMMUNICATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality is a must in a Women of Courage support group!

provide you with a safe and supportive environment in which to share and heal. God's Word has much to say about confidentiality; some relevant scriptures which shed light on this concern include the following:

1. "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret." (Proverbs 11:13)
2. "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17)
3. If you argue your case with a neighbor, do not betray another man's confidence, or he who hears it may shame you and you will never lose your bad reputation. (Proverbs 25:9-10)
4. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:25,29,31-32)

Confidentiality is based on cooperation of all group members to maintain it. However, *the facilitators have no power to enforce what a group member chooses to do outside of the group. If a member chooses to break the confidence of any member sharing in the group, she may jeopardize her membership in the group.* The ability to keep a confidence is one of the requirements for group members. We adopt together the following general rule and exception to protect and maintain group trust and confidentiality:

I covenant to faithfully maintain the confidence of each women in this Women of Courage support group. I will not disclose outside the group anything that is shared with me. Exceptions would be: 1) If your leader has reasonable cause to believe that a group member is a danger to herself or others; and 2) During group supervision, your facilitators may share some of the group processes in order to receive instruction, guidance and direction for your benefit and that of the group. Members names will not be used if at all possible

I have read and understand the principles and limits of confidentiality for this Women of Courage support group. I will respect and keep the confidences of the group members as shared with me in my group.

Signature: _____

Date: _____