

Dear Parents,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to come along side your son/daughter and serve as an encouragement to them as well as your family.

Life Hurts God Heals exists to:

- support your son/daughter in a small group or mentor setting as they move from adolescence to young adulthood
- “be there” for your son/daughter
- encourage, guide, and to serve as a role model

Your approval and support of this relationship is critical. Therefore we would like to answer some questions you may have. We also ask that you affirm the mentoring relationship by signing the attached *Parent Consent Form*.

Helpful guidelines:

- *It's okay for you to contact your son's/daughter's leader on occasion and keep lines of communication open.*
- *Inform the adult leader of any special concerns you have.* If you notice a particularly disturbing behavior in your son/daughter or notice they are under an unusual amount of stress, please share this with the adult leader so they will have a better understanding. ***Please keep in mind, the leader is not a family therapist, but rather a pastor to your son/daughter.
- *Respect the mentor's right to keep some information confidential.* It is possible that your teenager will share things which they cannot share with you. This is not out of disrespect for you, as it allows the adult to establish a relationship of respect and trust with your teenager. Please respect this. **With that said, however, a leader is obligated to reveal information concerning evidence that your son/daughter may harm themselves, others, or that they are being abused.
- *Allow mentors to be themselves.* It will be helpful if you realize that your son's/daughter's leader is on your team, or, more correctly, on your family's team. They are not substitute parents for them and as a result, will likely approach things differently than you. With that said, their leader has no intention of driving a wedge between you and your child. He or she will not take sides. The leader's role is to be an authentic encourager who will help your teen to clarify his or her thinking on issues and to make good decisions. Undoubtedly, the opinions or values of the mentor may be adopted, even if temporarily, by your teen. This is normal. If you have a serious concern, you should discuss the situation with a staff member.

We are eager to come along side your son/daughter! Please sign the attached form and return it with your teenager at the next Life Hurts God Heals meeting.

Thankful,

Craig D Hindsman
Youth Pastor – Marcus Pointe Baptist Church

I agree to give _____ permission to participate in the
(print son/daughter's name above)
Life Hurts God Heals, 8-step support group program at Marcus Pointe Baptist Church.
Should I have any concerns, I will direct them to the adult trained lay small group leader
and/or staff member. I understand they are here to encourage my son/daughter and are
not professional therapists.

Signed: _____
(parent/legal guardian signature here)

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Parent/Legal Guardian name: _____

Name of teenager(s):

Relationship to them: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

In case of emergency: Name: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to them: _____

**** Please mail this to:**
Marcus Pointe Baptist Church
Attn: Craig Hindsman
6205 North W Street
Pensacola, FL 32505