

Small Group Guidelines

1. Keep your sharing focused on your own thoughts, feelings, and actions. Please limit your sharing to three to five minutes.
2. There is NO cross-talk please. Cross-talk is when two people engage in a dialogue during the meeting. Each person sharing is free to express feelings without interruptions.
3. We are here to support one another. We will not attempt to “fix” one another.
4. Anonymity and confidentiality are basic requirements. What is shared in the group stays in the group. The only exception is when someone threatens to injure themselves or others.
5. Offensive language has no place in a Christ-centered recovery group.



Riverview Church
4980 Sweetgrass Ln
Bonsall, CA 92003
(760) 941-1430

12 Step Meetings: Monday and Friday at 7
Foundations: Wednesday at 7
Parents of Addicted Loved Ones: Thursday at 7

Accountability Team Phone Numbers

Sponsor _____

Accountability Partners

ADULT CHILDREN OF FAMILY DYSFUNCTION

Issue Pamphlet



12 Steps



Exploring the Issue of Adult Children of Family Dysfunction

Did you grow up in a family or home where one or more of the caregivers struggled with addiction, compulsions, co-dependency or other unhealthy behaviors? Was your home filled with conflict, neglect, or anxious systems?

Often children from dysfunctional families think the systems they grew up in are normal and may be unaware of the adverse effects.

Adult children of Family Dysfunction often create survival skills from childhood, such as isolation, perfectionism, and family peacemaker, which then become habits or hang ups as adults.

Characteristics of an Adult Child of Family Dysfunction may include, but are not limited to:

- We suffer from lack of self-confidence or low self-esteem.
- We have difficulty trusting others.
- We have difficulty acknowledging or expressing emotion as an adult, having learned how to repress emotions as a child.
- We have to guess what is normal.
- We spend time taking care of others, neglecting our own needs.
- We lived in anxiety, walking on egg shells, waiting for the other shoe to drop.
- We struggled with unexplained anger, rage, and sadness.
- We have difficulty following through on a project because of a struggle to concentrate and focus.
- We manage time poorly and do not set priorities in a way that works effectively for us.
- We have difficulty forming healthy adult relationships.
- We judge ourselves harshly, especially when things did not go perfectly.
- We are prone to addiction to alcohol or drugs, self-harm, or self-destructive behavior.
- We are either extremely responsible or irresponsible brought on by a lack of good example growing up.
- We overreact to change.
- We get angry frequently or easily, and tend to isolate.
- We constantly seek approval and affirmation.
- We had to grow up too soon, lose childlike qualities of innocence due to having to take on major responsibilities at an early age.

How We Find Recovery

Through a relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Higher Power, and by working the Christ-centered 12 steps, we can find freedom from the adverse effects of our childhood family dysfunction.

Characteristics of an adult child of family dysfunction in recovery may include but are not limited to:

- Accept Jesus Christ as Higher Power
- Work the 12 step recovery process diligently and consistently. We recognize we are powerless by ourselves to heal from the damaged emotions resulting from our childhood.
- We come to believe that we matter to God and He loves us as His child.
- We look to God and His Word to find our identity as worthwhile and loved human beings.
- We learn that the emotions we are feeling are very real and need to be acknowledged.
- We learn how to organize our emotions. First by noticing them, then by honoring them, organizing them, and sharing them with God and at least one other person.
- We learn to offer forgiveness to those who have hurt us and make amends for harm we've done to others.
- We gradually release the burden of unexpressed grief, slowly move out of the past, and no longer allow it to control us.
- We learn to set clear limitations and boundaries.
- Become an adult no longer imprisoned by childhood reactions.
- We are willing to mature in our relationship with God and others.
- We come to believe that God won't waste the hurt in our lives.
- In our recovery, we become willing to be used by God to bring hope to others with similar struggles.