

## 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

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\_\_\_\_\_

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# GAMBLING ADDICTION

## Issue Pamphlet



# 12 Steps



### **Exploring the Issue of Gambling Addiction**

If, when you honestly want to, you find you cannot quit gambling entirely, or if you have little control over the amount you bet, you are probably a compulsive gambler. A compulsive gambler is described as a person whose gambling has caused growing and continuing problems in any department of his or her life.

Characteristics of someone struggling with a gambling addiction may include, but are not limited to:

- My gambling makes me careless of the welfare of myself and/or my family.
- I have borrowed money, sold possessions, and/or committed an illegal act to finance gambling.
- After losing I felt the need to return as soon as possible and win back my losses or after a win had a strong urge to return and win more.
- I have lost time at work, school, home, and with friends to gamble.
- At times, I have been defensive about my gambling and justified my right to gambling, especially when trying to escape worry or stress.
- I was trapped in the illusion of “just one more time.” Or “this time it will be different.”
- When I did seek help I was only looking for the pain to go away.
- My track record shows that it is impossible for me to gamble in any form.

### **Sobriety for Gambling Addiction**

Sobriety for the compulsive gambler is defined as follows: complete abstinence of any betting or wagering, for self or others, whether for money or not, no matter how slight or insignificant, where the outcome is uncertain or depends upon chance or “skill” and constitutes gambling.

### **How We Find Recovery**

Through a relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Higher Power, and by working through the Christ-centered 12 steps, we can find freedom from our hurts, hang ups and habits.

Characteristics of someone in recovery for gambling addiction may include, but are not limited to:

- Accept Jesus Christ as Higher Power.
- Working the 12 step recovery process diligently and consistently.
- Living without gambling one day at a time with the help of the Higher Power, Jesus Christ.
- Staying away from that first bet. If there isn't a first one, there cannot be a 10th one. And when free of gambling, life becomes much more manageable.
- Experiencing the true peace and serenity you have been seeking.
- Restoring and developing stronger relationships with God and with others.
- Stop relying on dysfunctional, compulsive, and addictive behaviors as a temporary “fix” for pain.
- Learning how to serve others out of the freedom you are finding.