

## ***CROSS THE LINE***

*Getting to know each other story*

### **DIRECTIONS:**

- The group all stands on one side of a line, either indoors or out. A rope makes a good “line” but use anything at hand
- The exercise is completed in silence except for the person giving the directions.
- The leader will read a series of statements. If the statement is true for you, cross the line and then turn and look back at the group. Those who did not cross the line, silently show your support for those who did by holding up the sign for “I Love You” in American Sign Language. (see below)



*Please read the following statements starting each one with “**Cross the line...**”*

If someone has lost their job in your house

If you have ever felt judged by the color of your skin

If you have ever had to care for a drunk parent

If you have ever thought about harming or killing yourself

If you've ever been picked last

If you've ever been judged because of your sexual orientation

If you've been made fun of because you are overweight

If you've ever stuck up for someone who was being bullied

If you've ever not had enough food in your house

If you've ever felt embarrassed because of where you live

If you've ever bullied someone

If someone close to you has died recently

If you've been hurt by someone you trusted

If you've ever thought about running away

If you feel isolated and not listened to

If there is violence where you live

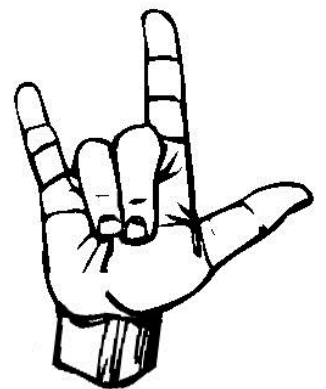
If you've ever wished you weren't born

If you've ever had to care for your brothers or sisters

If you've ever felt abandoned by one or both of your parents

If you feel pressured to join a gang or clique

If you've been ridiculed because of your faith



If you've ever pretended to be someone you're not

If you've ever felt estranged from, or rejected by, this faith community

If a relative or member of your family has been estranged from or rejected by this faith community

If you've ever had a crisis of faith or a dark night of the soul

If you've experienced REAL depression

If you deal with alcoholism or its effects in your family or personally

If you are estranged from a family member

If you argue with your spouse or partner more than you speak words of love or encouragement

If money issues cause stress in your home

If you've been deeply wounded by a life partner or companion

After the last statement is read and responded to, please thank everyone, have them return to their seats, and ask them how they felt about this exercise.

