

## CROSSING THE LINE

**TIME** 25–45 minutes

### SUPPLIES

- › Masking tape
- › List of “Crossing the Line” statements

**SET UP** Place two lines of tape on the floor, allowing at least a seven-foot distance between them. If you prefer, create your own list of “Crossing the Line” statements, or use the sample statements below.

**NOTE** Be prepared for an emotional atmosphere if the statements you read are particularly provocative.

**THE GAME** Divide players into two groups and direct them to stand behind the lines, facing each other. Players silently cross the line if the statement you read applies to them. Players should notice who crosses and does not cross the line as each statement is read. After each statement, tell players to return to their original places.

At the end of the exercise, ask if players want to add any statements. Call those out as they’re mentioned. Remind players that this exercise is to be done silently, and that they have the right to pass for any reason. Be sure to guide the group through “Going Deeper” reflections when you’re done.

### SAMPLE “CROSSING-THE-LINE” STATEMENTS

Cross the line if you are one of these or can identify with the statement:

- › Are a sports fan
- › Play sports
- › Read a lot
- › Like to go to the movies
- › Are an artist
- › Are female
- › Are male
- › Were born in this country
- › Were born in another country
- › Have finished high school

- › Have finished college
- › Work and go to school
- › Love ice cream or cake
- › Have worked at more than five paying jobs
- › Haven’t worked at a paying job
- › Are religious
- › Are spiritual but not religious
- › Are from the south
- › Are from the Midwest
- › Are from the west
- › Are from the northeast
- › Are Native American
- › Are Hispanic
- › Are African-American
- › Are European-American
- › Are Asian-American

### GOING DEEPER

- › Explain that our differences mean no two people are completely alike. How did this exercise explore uniqueness and separate experiences?
- › How does crossing the line from both sides help you to see that a conversation about diversity doesn’t have to separate people? How can diversity bring us together and enrich our lives?
- › This activity was designed to help you realize the diversity that exists among everyone in the group, beyond what you can see. What exactly is meant by diversity? (*race, where people grow up, different skills, talents, beliefs*)
- › How do individual behaviors result from specific cultural experiences?
- › How did it feel to cross over the line? How did it feel to remain behind?
- › How do individual differences support achieving group objectives?