

Child and Youth Protection Training Series

SESSION

1

Preserving God's Call in the Life of a Child

Video Host: *Eric Green, Canby, Ore.*

"Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked; Preserve me from violent men, who have purposed to make my steps stumble."
Psalm 140:4 (NKJV)

Purpose of this training: The Foursquare Church is committed to providing safe places for children and youth; places where they can discover Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and where they can grow in Him and His plan for their lives.

Use this handout to make notes, questions or important observations from the video training and we will discuss these after the presentation.

Objective I: Understand the Effects of Child Abuse

Abuse leaves wounds in the life of every victim:

Abuse hurts everyone:

When children are abused, they may experience...

- > alienation
- > feelings of isolation
- > guilt
- > insecurity
- > and worse, victims of abuse in many cases ...
 victimize others

Families whose children or youth have been victimized often deal with...

- > a sense of responsibility
- > division within the family
- > removal of family members
- > break-up of the family and/or marriage due to the strain of the violation

Those accused of abuse often experience...

- > termination of ministry positions
- > separation from the home and separation from the family
- > possible arrest, prison sentence or probation if convicted
- > if convicted, a requirement to register for life as a convicted sex offender

Churches where abuse has occurred often experience...

- > estranged relationships due to mistrust and rumors
- > negative reputation within the community served by the church
- > significant loss of time, energy and money spent defending or recovering
- > complex restoration of effective ministry and healthy relationships



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Objective II: Commit to Safe Ministries in our Ministries

Determine in what ways you and your church can strengthen your ministry by improving these areas of safety for children and youth:

- > Suitable supervision
- > Managing bathroom visits
- > Involvement of parents and guardians
- > Appropriate interactions
- > _____ of abuse and neglect

Pause the DVD at this point and discuss what you have heard so far.

Objective III: How Molesters Operate

Statistically, only _____% of sexual predators are female while the remaining _____% are male.

Identify some of the distinguishing characteristics between a situational and a fixated child molester:

Predators themselves tell us the three factors they use to violate children and youth:

A: _____ P: _____ C: _____

What standards do we already use in our ministry to help prevent child abuse?

Brainstorm ways we can prevent molesters from gaining access to, privacy with, and control of the children and youth in our ministries.

Objective IV: Protecting Staff and Volunteers from False Accusations of Abuse

- > Establish _____ and appropriate boundaries of behavior
- > Submit to a process of supervision and _____
- > Involve your _____ ministry team in the event-planning process

Refer to the standards from the Child and Youth Protection Manual that have been provided to you and suggest your observations about ways to improve the supervision of children and youth in your ministry.



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Protection and Purity

Video Host: *Caroline Barnett, Los Angeles, Calif.*

Purpose of this training: The Foursquare Church is committed to providing safe places for children and youth; places where they can discover Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and where they can grow in Him and His plan for their lives.

Objective I: Commit to Effective Abuse Prevention

We can help prevent abuse in our church by increasing our knowledge about abuse:

A. The facts about sexual abuse

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| 68% | 4% | 25% | 92% | of molesters who have prior convictions. |
| 15% | 75% | 5% | 45% | of children are victimized by school personnel. |
| 85% | 42% | 20% | 70% | of sexual abuse in churches committed by other children. |
| 30% | 5% | 50% | 85% | of sexual abuse incidents in churches committed by paid staff. |
| 2% | 78% | 10% | 40% | of teenagers that received unsolicited invitations on the internet from a sex offender. |
| 50% | 95% | 10% | 60% | of sexual abuse in churches committed by volunteers. |

B. The facts about sexual abuse

These factors can contribute to the vulnerability of children:

- > Children who are prone to _____.
- > Children who need more than usual _____, affection or attention.
- > Kids who are naturally passive, shy or _____.
- > Kids with naïve attitudes about sex or kids who are _____.
- > Children or youth with few or no _____ skills.



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C. Preventing Abuse at Church

Working together as a team, church leaders and volunteers can prevent abuse in our churches. Here's how:

- > _____ staff and volunteers.
- > Talk about personal _____ and _____ in discussions with children and youth.
- > Understand that nearly _____ of all abuse is preventable.
- > Remember that abuse is primarily a _____ problem.
- > Keep Ephesians 6:12 in mind and remember that abuse is an _____ on God's purpose for an individual life.

Pause the DVD and discuss what you have heard to this point.

Objective II: Identify and Take Action on Warning Signs of Abuse

- > Bruises and scars on _____ tissue area of a child's body may need further investigation.
- > Abused kids may respond negatively to the _____ touch of others.
- > Abused kids may be concerned that others notice _____ that they have been hurt.

Objective III: Understand and Implement Proactive and Redemptive Responses to Allegations of Abuse

- > Don't overreact—abused kids don't need more extreme reaction.
- > Kids who have been victimized expect they will be in _____.
- > Respond redemptively.
- > _____ suspected abuse immediately to your ministry supervisor.
- > Our first priority is for people to experience the protection, grace and _____ offered by God for their lives.

Homework:

You will be given copies of the following pages from the Child and Youth Protection Manual and asked to review these pages before session 3 so we can discuss the information when we meet next time.

- > 9.3 Appropriate and Inappropriate Verbal Interactions, page 23
- > 9.4 Appropriate and Inappropriate Physical Interactions, page 24
- > 9.5 Appropriate and Inappropriate Corrective Measures, page 25

Conclusion:

Pray as a group for the protection and purity of the children and youth who are served by your church. As you pray, emphasize Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' (NIV)



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3

Boundaries, Behavior and Barriers

Video Host: *Robert Flores, San Dimas, Calif.*

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV)

Purpose of this training: The Foursquare Church is committed to providing safe places for children and youth; places where they can discover Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and where they can grow in Him and His plan for their lives.

Objective I: Boundaries for Staff and Volunteers

A. Here are some of the boundaries that will help prevent false accusations:

- > Submit to the worker _____ process in your church.
- > Complete a written application.

B. A background check is helpful because it includes several things:

- > Residency
- > Criminal convictions
- > Vehicle records
- > Child abuse registry
- > No one works with our kids without being _____.

C. Here are some of the boundaries that will help prevent false accusations:

- > Be familiar with and live by the definitions of _____ physical interactions.
- > Don't engage in _____ physical interactions.
- > If you see someone letting down the standard or crossing an inappropriate line, honestly and prayerfully approach your church leadership.



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Objective II: **Boundaries for Staff and Volunteers**

A. Behavior Management for Staff and Volunteers:

- > Trying to enforce a "rule" you haven't clearly stated up-front will cause confusion and frustration.
- > Determine four or five expectations you have for the kids and the group.
- > State these expectations either verbally or in a chart that everyone can see, and enforce these expectations _____.
- > Decide what your reinforcements will be.
- > Talk in advance about what type of _____ you will take if someone breaks one of the rules.
- > Plan what kind of _____ you will use for those who abide by your expectations.

B. Be proactive as you teach and serve in children's and youth ministries:

- > Be prepared with _____ measures before problems occur.
- > Be prepared with response options so you know how to react.
- > Be aware that leaders of your church ministries are required to _____ all teachers and volunteers from time to time.
- > Be open to receive suggestions from your church leaders about how to improve your efforts as you serve.

Objective III: **Barriers About Reporting Other Adults**

A. Barrier 1: _____

- > Matthew 18:6 instructs us to keep the circle small.
- > Involve the right people to help bring resolution.

B. Barrier 2: _____

- > Fear of rejection by the adult who is reported.

C. Barrier 3: _____ and _____

- > Sounds Christ-like, but may be an excuse for not doing the right thing.
- > Mistreatment of kids cannot be permitted.
- > Sometimes the only person aware of the problem is you.

D. Barrier 4: _____

- > We cannot ignore offending behavior even if the offender is known or well-liked.



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E. Barrier 5: _____

- > Sometimes, we simply need to correct offending behavior.
- > Church leaders must act on all reports of abuse.

F. Barrier 6: _____

- > Intuition about possible maltreatment should be enough to look further into it.
- > Every adult watches out for each other and everyone watches out for the kids.
- > The maltreatment of children and youth at church is a _____ problem.

Stephen's Story

It is possible to prevent abuse and see children and youth grow up in the ways of the Lord, serving Him without the wounds of abuse.

Understanding the Maltreatment of Children by Their Parents:

- > One U.S. government report says there were _____ victims of maltreatment.
- > Notice that the largest group of victims of maltreatment is aged _____ and younger.
- > Parents/Care-givers commit the vast majority of maltreatment.
- > _____ are most often the offender in cases of child and youth maltreatment.

Max's Story

Our church may be the only place of safety for some children and youth. We need to be aware of those kids in our groups who need God's healing touch.

Conclusion:

Mark 9:37 - Jesus said: "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me." (NLT)



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4

Self-Protection With Godly Confidence

Video Host: **Kevin Twombly, Pembroke, N.H.**

"...I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!"

Matthew 25:40 (NLT)

Purpose of this training: The Foursquare Church is committed to providing safe places for children and youth; places where they can discover Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and where they can grow in Him and His plan for their lives.

Objective 1: Define Youth to Youth Maltreatment

Maltreatment covers a wide variety of issues from physical and _____ mistreatment to violent and sexual assault. Youth to youth maltreatment ranges from childhood hazing to "cyberbullying" using online and cell phone technology.

Statistics

- > Generally, there is a _____ year age difference between the victim and the aggressor.
- > The aggressor is usually stronger or more powerful than the victim.
- > The aggressor may use physical or emotional control.
- > More than half of adult sexual offenders committed their first crime _____ they were 18 years old.
- > Usually, minors who mistreat other minors are sometimes current or past victims of maltreatment themselves.

Objective 2: Describe Basic Symptoms of Youth to Youth Maltreatment

Obvious symptoms:

- > Aggressive behavior between children or youth.
- > One person may yell, berate, slap, hit or in some other way _____ another person.
- > Physical interaction between tweeners may cross a line and become dangerous or violent.

Subtle Symptoms:

- > A young child may bite another child without understanding why it is wrong.
- > Hazing is another type of _____ youth to youth maltreatment. While intended to be fun, it often results in one or more kids being victimized by others.
- > Youth who have never been trained to manage aggressive behavior often take the mistreatment of others into their dating relationships.



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Objective 3: Discover Steps for Prevention of Youth to Youth Maltreatment

- > Understand Matthew 25:40—mistreating another person is _____ Jesus.
- > Emotional foundations for kids:
 - Train them in healthy communication skills.*
 - Train them to resolve conflicts and prevent fights.*
 - Train them to de-escalate _____ and properly deal with their emotions through self-discipline.*
- > Behavioral foundations: Treat each other the way Christ wants us to.
- > Kids also learn correct behavior by what adults allow to happen.
- > Train kids about _____, respect for others and respect for themselves.

Objective 4: Develop Action Steps to Respond Redemptively to Youth to Youth Maltreatment

Action Step 1 – Know how to respond:

- > Intervene and get help from your senior pastor or ministry leader.
- > Listen to the person who is reporting an incident.
- > Don't ask questions.
- > Get medical attention for the victim, if appropriate.
- > Pray for wisdom and righteousness; rely on the Holy Spirit.
- > Document what you were told happened and what you did in response.
- > Keep calm; don't make rash statements or take sides.

Action Step 2 – Know who to include in the conversation:

- > Always tell your _____ ministry supervisor.
- > Cooperate with _____ authorities.
- > Mandatory reporters know what is required and we believe it is in the best interest of everyone involved for mandatory reporters to also tell their ministry supervisor.



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Action Step 3 – Develop response plans:

- > Personal _____ always drives our response.
- > Spiritual _____ should be among our highest goals.
- > Help victims return to healthy living.
- > Maltreatment that includes medical aspects may require extended physical healing.
- > Remember that Jesus is our healer and can bring healing to anyone.
- > Keep _____ information private; when that is not possible, the second best solution is to have a plan for social restoration within the church community.

Kathy's Story

Objective 5: **Discuss Self-Protection for Children and Youth**

- > Suggested training resources are available at <http://www.foursquare.org/articles/307,1.html>
- > Prevention of youth to youth maltreatment includes healthy responses and proactive training.
- > Discuss the issues of youth to youth maltreatment with your ministry teams.
- > There are healthy ways to present this difficult subject so we prevent our kids from being victimized.

Conclusion and Intercession for our Kids

