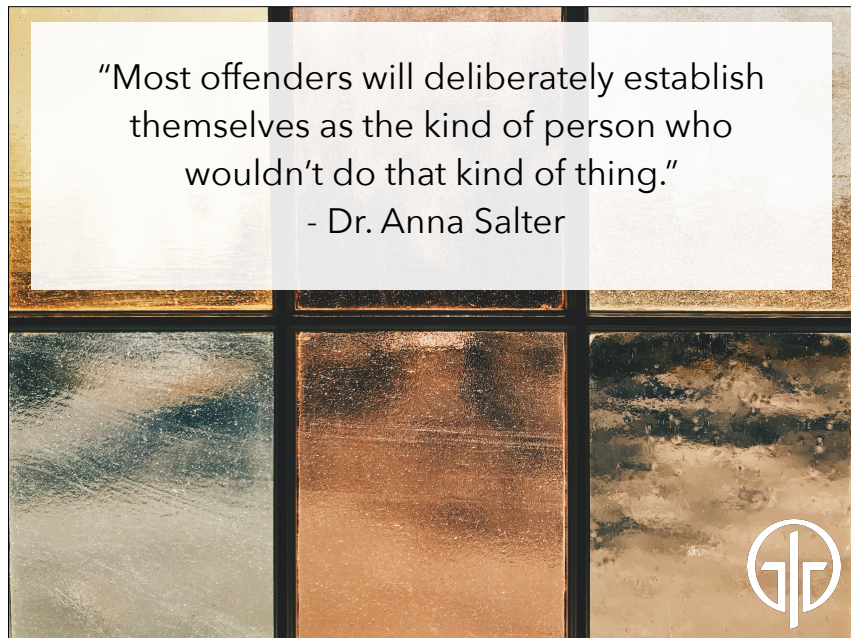




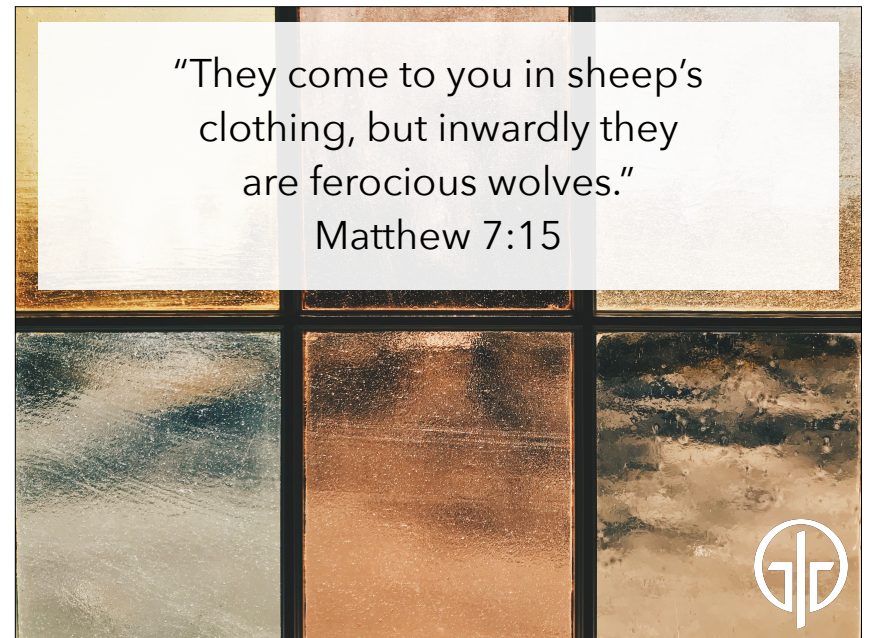
1



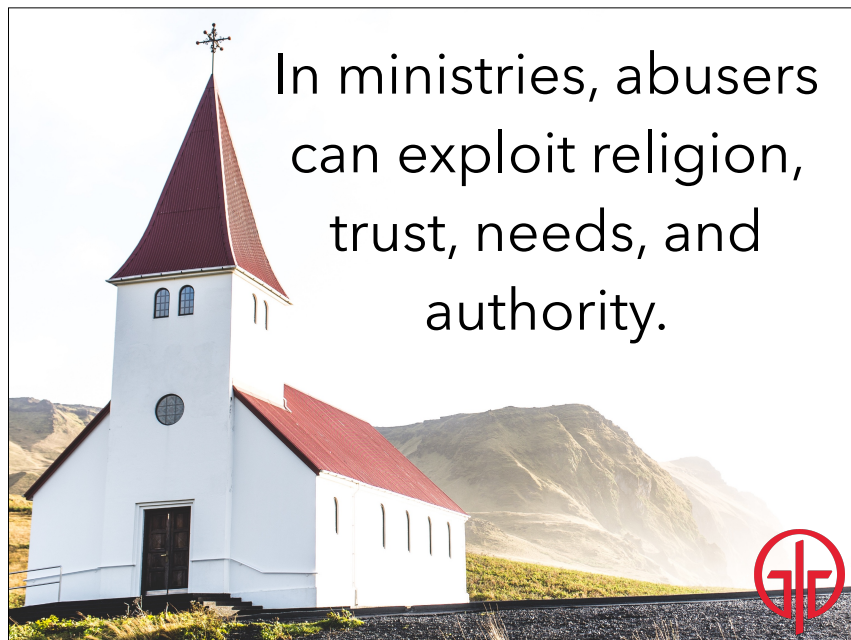
2



3



4



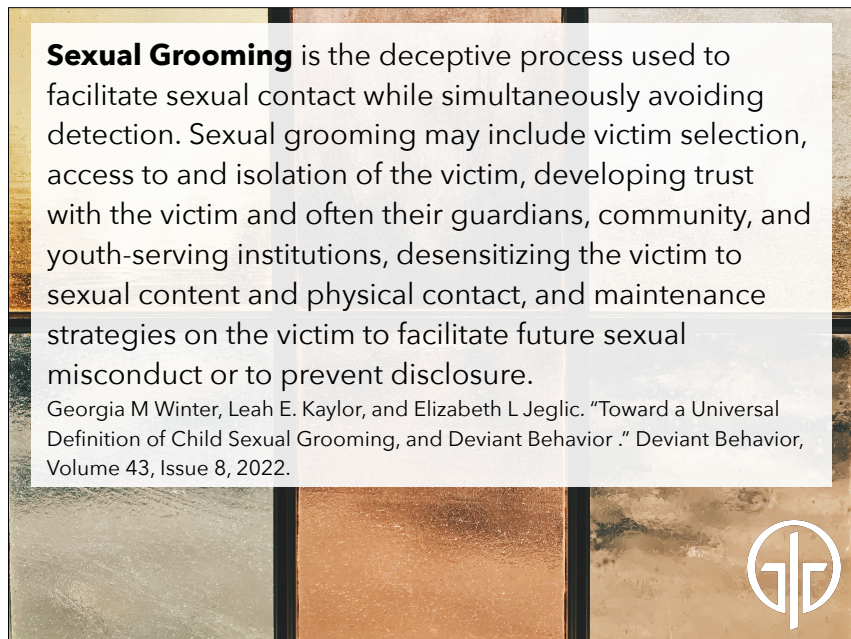
In ministries, abusers can exploit religion, trust, needs, and authority.

5



There is no common "profile" of an offender.

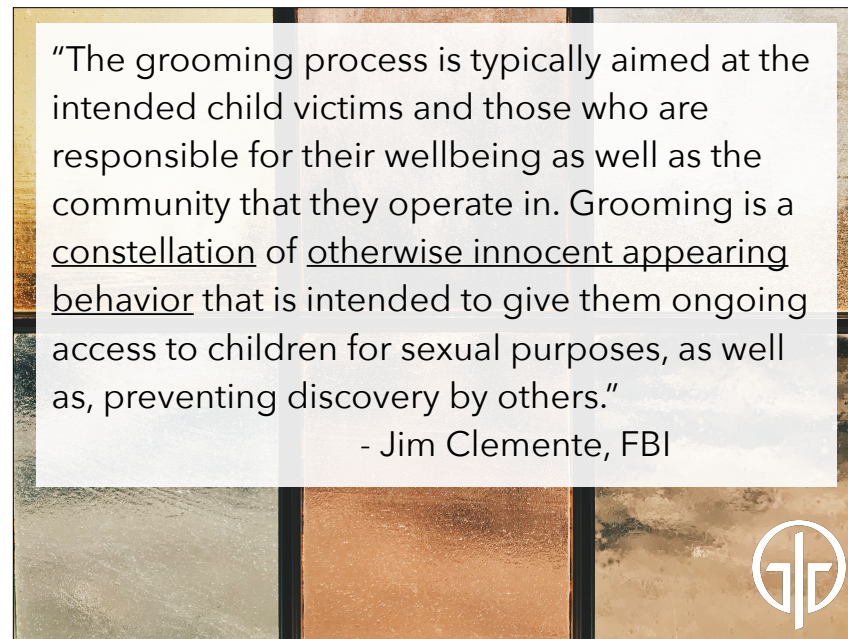
6



**Sexual Grooming** is the deceptive process used to facilitate sexual contact while simultaneously avoiding detection. Sexual grooming may include victim selection, access to and isolation of the victim, developing trust with the victim and often their guardians, community, and youth-serving institutions, desensitizing the victim to sexual content and physical contact, and maintenance strategies on the victim to facilitate future sexual misconduct or to prevent disclosure.

Georgia M Winter, Leah E. Kaylor, and Elizabeth L Jeglic. "Toward a Universal Definition of Child Sexual Grooming, and Deviant Behavior." *Deviant Behavior*, Volume 43, Issue 8, 2022.

7



"The grooming process is typically aimed at the intended child victims and those who are responsible for their wellbeing as well as the community that they operate in. Grooming is a constellation of otherwise innocent appearing behavior that is intended to give them ongoing access to children for sexual purposes, as well as, preventing discovery by others."

- Jim Clemente, FBI

8



9



10



11



12



13



14



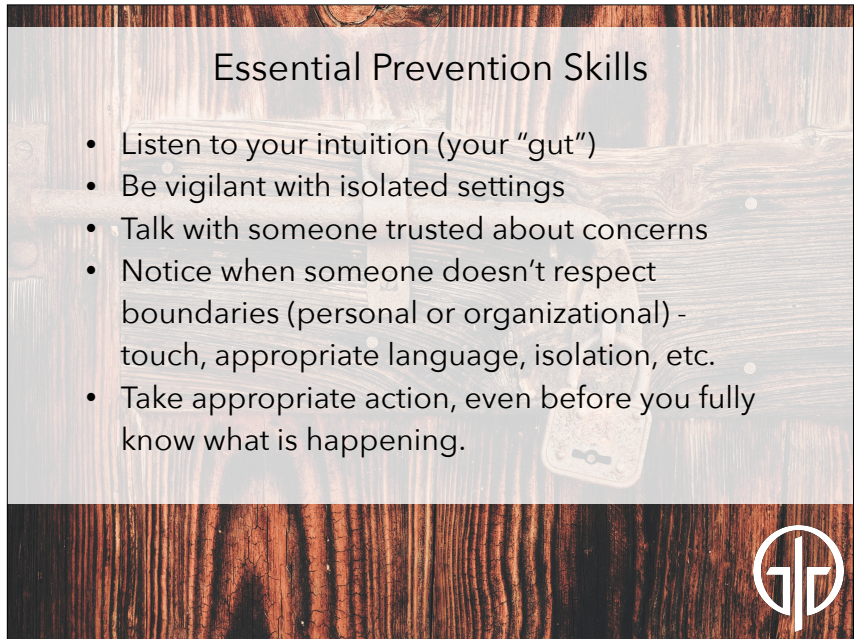
15



16



17



18



19



20

## Adult Tactics Against Adults - It's not "an affair" in a power structure.

- Spirituality, authority, intimacy, and care are weaponized
- Similar testing for vulnerabilities: isolation, circumstances (e.g. grief, counseling)
- Listen to your gut, especially if you feel guilty, or there is testing of boundaries - progression, unexpected (e.g. isolation, intimacy)



21

## Upholding Boundaries

Those in positions of power and trust are responsible and able to respect appropriate boundaries.



22



Recognizing Common Tactics - DARVO  
Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender

- Dr. Jennifer Freyd



23

## Denial

- "I never said that."
- "I don't know where you are getting this from. That is not what happened."
- "You are getting upset about nothing. That wasn't what you think. It was no big deal."
- "He would never do anything like that."



24

## Attack

- “You just like being in charge of everything. You are not submitting to your leaders.”
- “You are making that up. I will not allow you to gossip like this.”
- “Is this going to be a problem for you? If it is, you probably should think about whether this is the church for you.”
- “If you don’t accept the Bible’s teaching, you need to resign.”



25

## Reverse the Victim and the Offender

- “Leaders will always have some who target them for criticism and abuse.”
- “I have given so much to them and they are repaying my kindness with this betrayal.”
- “She is having mental health issues. She is not stable right now and she is lashing out to hurt me. She is using this allegation to hurt me.”
- “If this was legitimate, why didn’t they come to me first like Matthew 18 says? They are trying to run me off.”



26



## Accountability and Forgiveness



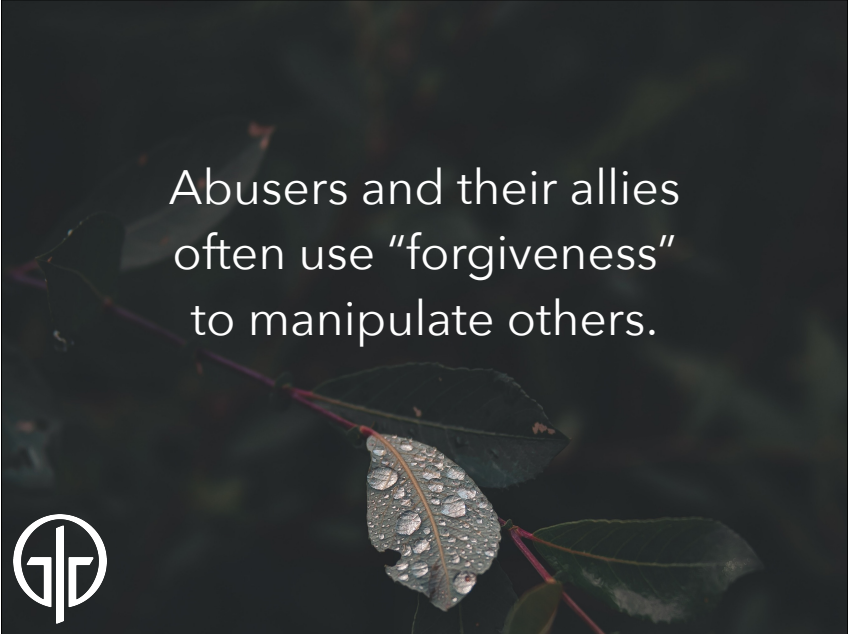
**GRACE**  
Godly Response to Abuse  
in the Christian Environment

27

What about forgiveness?

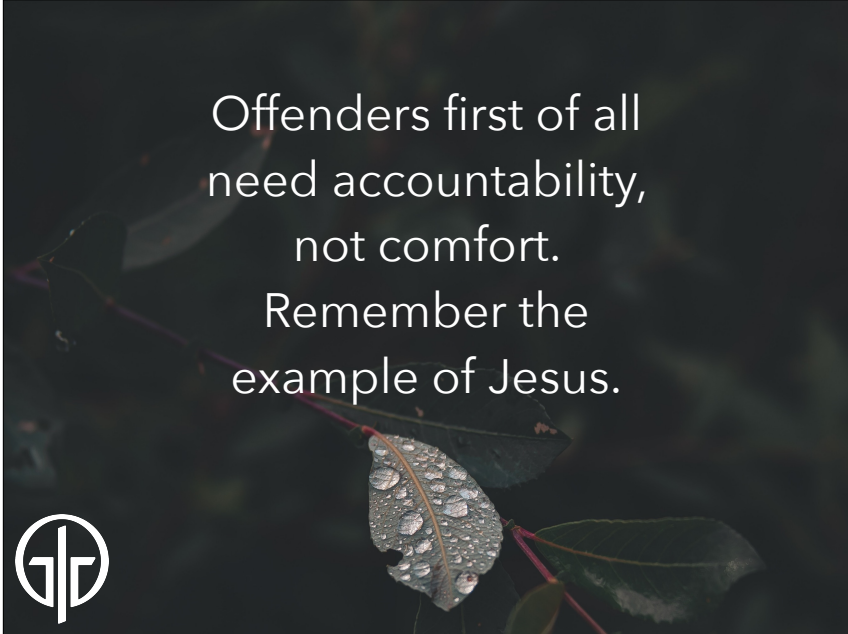


28



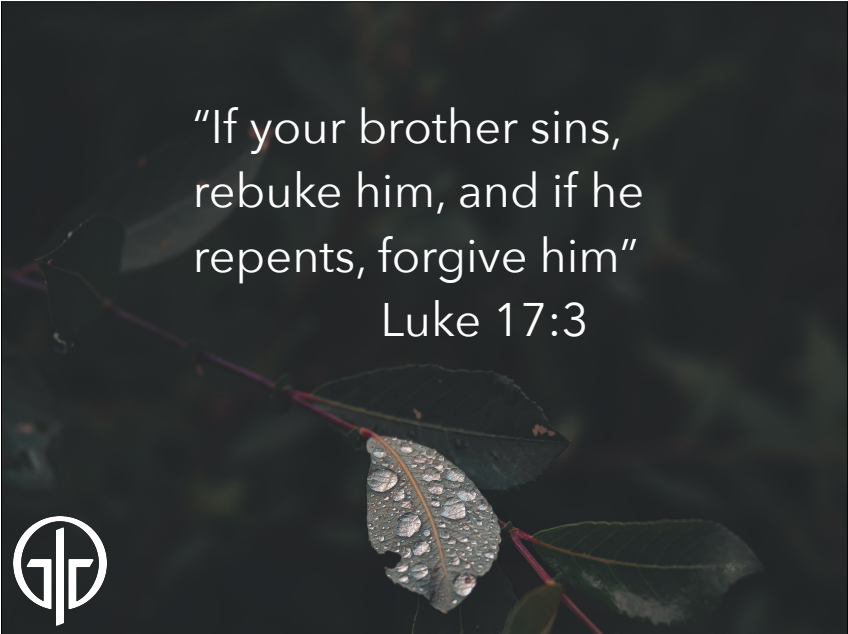
Abusers and their allies  
often use "forgiveness"  
to manipulate others.

29




Offenders first of all  
need accountability,  
not comfort.  
Remember the  
example of Jesus.

30



"If your brother sins,  
rebuke him, and if he  
repents, forgive him"  
Luke 17:3

31



Unrepentant abusers  
should not be welcome  
among vulnerable sheep.

32



GRACE Safeguarding Training

Part 4 - Your Role in Prevention and Response



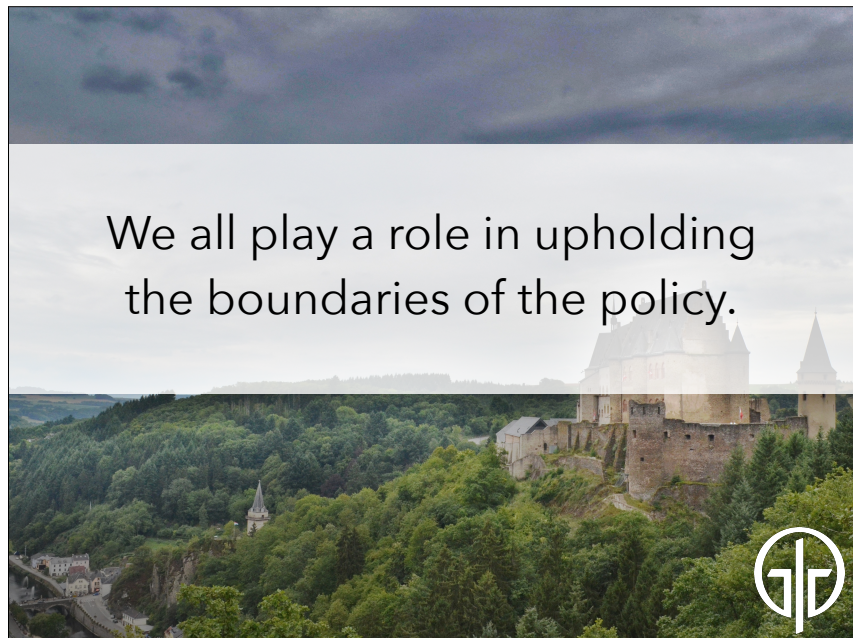
33




Protecting the vulnerable is  
a matter of discipleship.



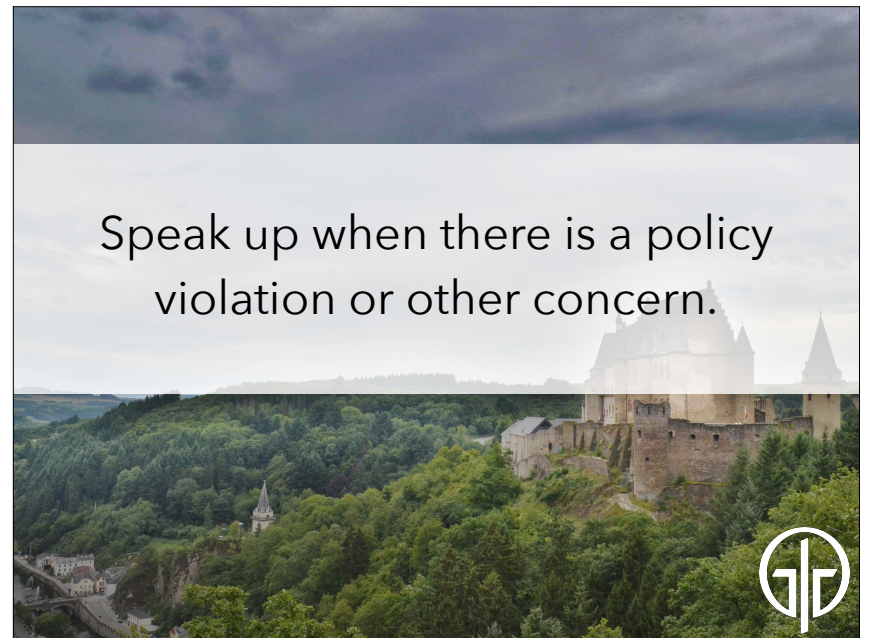
34




We all play a role in upholding  
the boundaries of the policy.



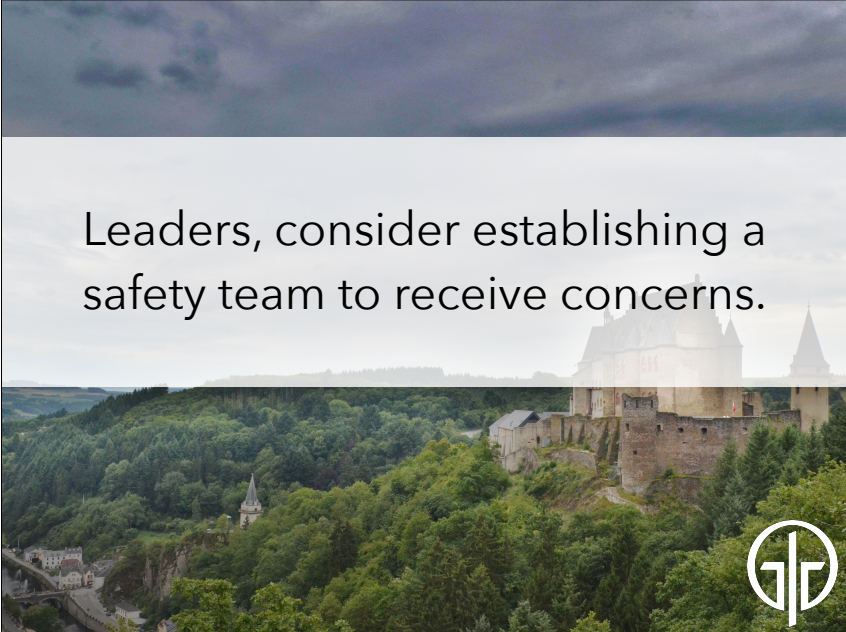
35



Speak up when there is a policy  
violation or other concern.




36



Leaders, consider establishing a safety team to receive concerns.



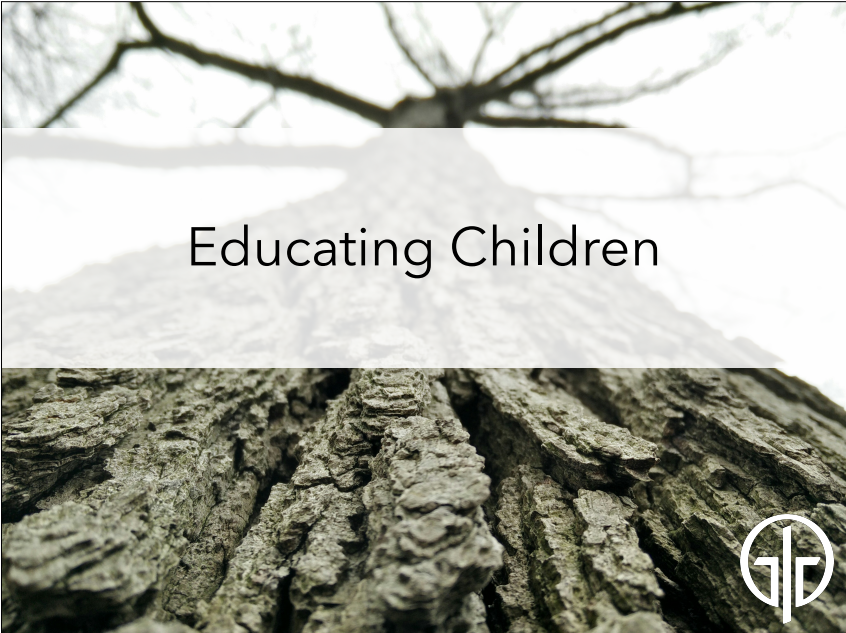
37



Leaders must work toward holistic policies on abuse.



38



## Educating Children



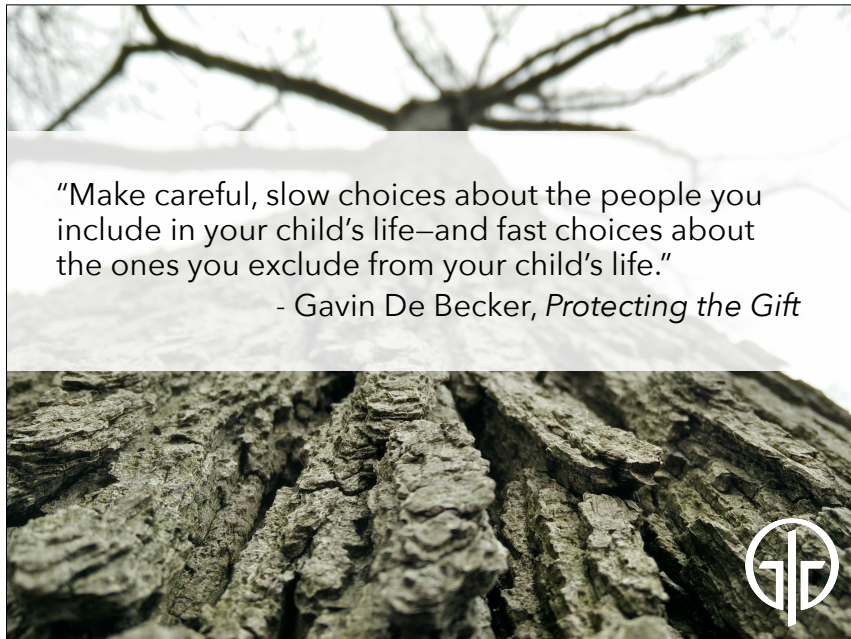
39

Teach kids:

- God made my body good
- Keep private parts private
- Anatomically Correct Names of private parts are important
- It's ok to say no!
- If someone touches, shows privates, tricks you it is not your fault
- Threats, bribes, and the difference between secrets and surprises
- Safe people - tell and keep telling until someone helps
- Telling is never tattling. We always need to tell when someone is getting hurt. You will not get in trouble, we will help you.

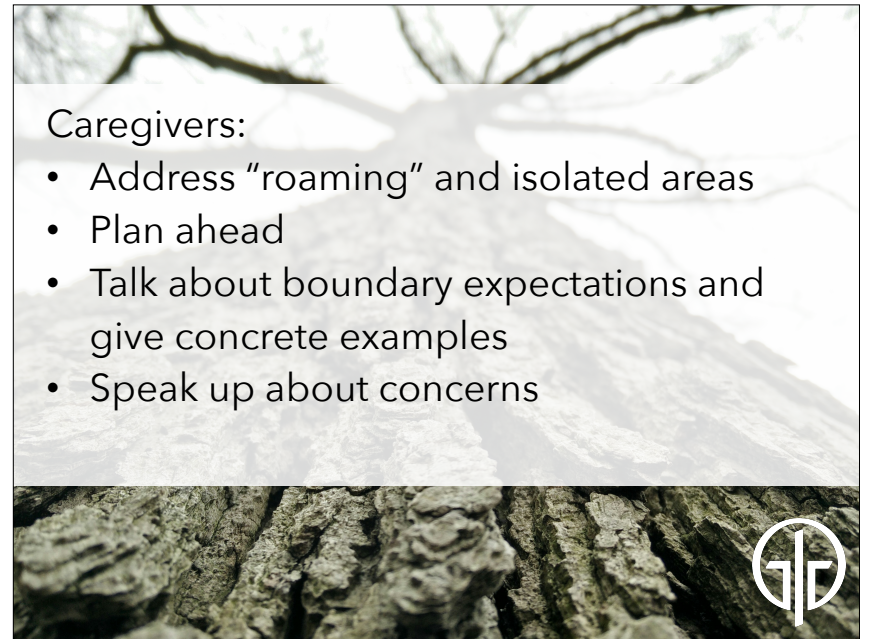


40



“Make careful, slow choices about the people you include in your child’s life—and fast choices about the ones you exclude from your child’s life.”  
- Gavin De Becker, *Protecting the Gift*

41



Caregivers:

- Address “roaming” and isolated areas
- Plan ahead
- Talk about boundary expectations and give concrete examples
- Speak up about concerns

42



Reporting  
Child Abuse



43



**REPORT.  
DON'T INVESTIGATE.**

Some adults in Washington have a legal obligation to report child abuse and neglect.

All Christians have an ethical obligation to report child abuse and neglect.




44

**REPORT.  
DON'T INVESTIGATE.**

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Emergencies: Call 911  
 Authorities can ensure the immediate safety of a child and get medical attention if needed.



45

**REPORT.  
DON'T INVESTIGATE.**

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Report to the Relevant  
 Child Protective Services  
 &  
 Relevant Local Law Enforcement



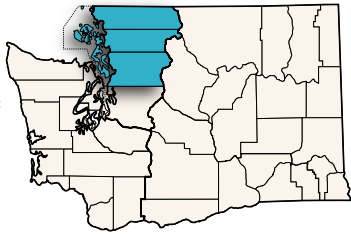
46

Reach the DCYF Intake Line  
 in Your Community


**866-829-2153**

REGION 3 – NORTH WESTERN WASHINGTON COUNTIES:


WHATCOM      SAN JUAN  
 SKAGIT        ISLAND  
 SNOHOMISH



For more information about supporting families as well as identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect, visit [www.dcyf.wa.gov](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov)



DCYF does not discriminate and provides equal access to its programs and services for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, age, sexual orientation or gender identity, veteran or military status, status as a breastfeeding mother, and the presence of any physical, sensory, or mental disability or use of a dog guide or service animal. If you would like free copies of this publication in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations at 1-800-723-4831 or email [communications@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:communications@dcyf.wa.gov). DCYF PUBLICATION CWP\_0036C (11-2024)

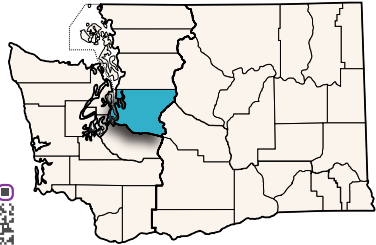


47


Reach the DCYF Intake Line  
 in Your Community

**800-609-8764**

REGION 4:  
 KING COUNTY



For more information about supporting families as well as identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect, visit [www.dcyf.wa.gov](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov)



DCYF does not discriminate and provides equal access to its programs and services for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, age, sexual orientation or gender identity, veteran or military status, status as a breastfeeding mother, and the presence of any physical, sensory, or mental disability or use of a dog guide or service animal. If you would like free copies of this publication in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations at 1-800-723-4831 or email [communications@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:communications@dcyf.wa.gov). DCYF PUBLICATION CWP\_0036D (11-2024)



48

**REPORT.  
DON'T INVESTIGATE.**

Report online exploitation of children:

Cyber Tipline

800-843-5678

[www.CyberTipline.org](http://www.CyberTipline.org)



49

**REPORT.  
DON'T INVESTIGATE.**

Reporting Abuse of a Vulnerable Adult

Report Online to Washington State Adult

Protective Services

OR

Call 1-877-734-6277



50

**REPORT.  
DON'T INVESTIGATE.**

About 16 states have laws that criminalize  
Adult Clergy Sexual Abuse.

Washington does not currently have laws  
regarding Adult Clergy Sexual Abuse.



51

**REPORT.  
DON'T INVESTIGATE.**

Common Questions  
about Reporting



52



53



54



55



56

## REPORT. DON'T INVESTIGATE.

- Report internally to leaders only after the external report
- Do not inform the family if the alleged offender is in the family or unknown
- Cooperate fully with the investigation
- Leaders must assess the possibility of other victims and take protective measures
- Focus on the vulnerable, not the institution



57

Leaders must respect other professional roles and focus on their immediate responsibility in the church community:

1. Assess safety
2. Draw lines of accountability
3. Care for survivors
4. Seek answers from support resources and organizations



58

### Common Reporting Categories:

1. Witness/Discover Abuse
2. Disclosure of Abuse
3. Reasonable Suspicion



59

### Witness/Discover Abuse

- Find child abuse materials (“child pornography”)
- See the abuse of a child
- Discover sexually suggestive or explicit text messages.



60

## Disclosure is a Process

- Disclosure is often a process
- Children will “test the waters”
- Often begins with something small:  
“I don’t like \_\_\_\_\_”  
“I don’t want to go.”



61

## Normal Disclosure Behavior:

- Non-disclosure
- Delayed disclosure
- Partial disclosure
- Accidental disclosure
- Unconvincing disclosure
- Recantation (about 1 in 4)



62

## Normal Disclosure Behavior:

- Ask open-ended questions
- Do not press for details (but it is ok to ask “Who?” or “What happened?”)
- Do not ask leading questions: “Was it \_\_\_\_\_ person?” “Did he touch you there?”
- Do not ask, “Are you sure?”



63

## Disclosures of Abuse

- “I’m scared. Daddy gets mad and hits me.”
- “Joey likes to touch penises together.”
- “Mom said I get no food today.”
- A teen tells you that their friend told them they “slept” with an adult.
- An adult or teen admits to abuse.



64

## Reasonable Suspicion - Physical Abuse

- A suspicious bruise/wound without an explanation (especially when frequent)
- Pattern bruise/wound (hand slap or hit with an object)
- Defensive wounds
- Fear of going home



65

## Reasonable Suspicion - Sexual Abuse

- A 5 year old demonstrates knowledge of oral sex or is acting out sexually with another child beyond what is developmentally typical.
- A child returns from camp with sharp behavior change - is withdrawn, and has started wetting the bed.
- Some behavioral signs are often not definitive on their own.



66

## Potential Physical Indicators of Sexual Abuse

- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Injuries (e.g. bruises, tearing, bleeding), itching, or swelling in the genital, vaginal, or anal area
- Difficulty, pain, or blood in the genital area when walking, sitting, or using the bathroom
- Discharge from the penis or vagina
- Promiscuity and early sexual activity
- Urinary tract infections, yeast infections, STDs
- Pregnancy



67

## Reasonable Suspicion - Neglect

- Consistently dirty or has severe body odor
- Begg, steals, or hoards food or complains frequently of hunger
- Untreated illness, injuries, health (e.g., unfilled cavities) or serious educational needs
- Is often left inappropriately unsupervised



68

## Notice behavioral signs that might apply to multiple forms of abuse:

- Sudden changes in behavior
- Sudden drop in grades
- Fear toward a person or type of person or situation
- Nightmares or trouble sleeping
- Anxiety and hyperactivity
- Depression
- Eating disorders or self-harm
- Acting out sexually
- Unexplained stomach pain



69

You are not alone.  
Seek help if you have  
questions or need support.



70



## Responding to Adult Abuse



**GRACE**  
Godly Response to Abuse  
in the Christian Environment

71

After a report or knowledge of potential abuse, a safety team and/or leaders must:

1. Assess safety
2. Draw lines of accountability
3. Care for survivors
4. Seek answers from support resources and organizations



72

# Practice Self Care

