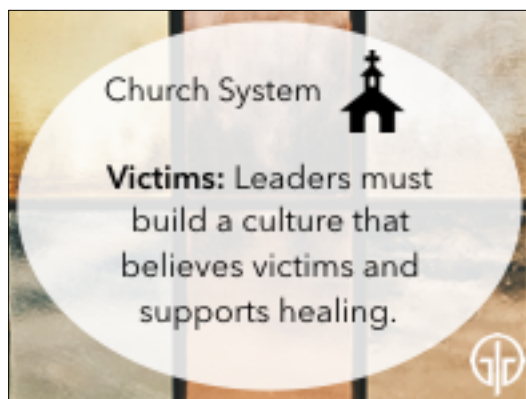




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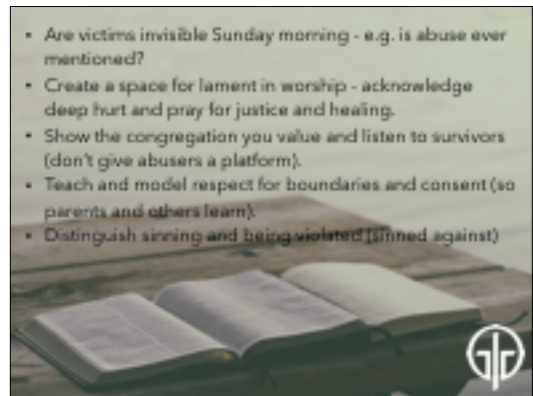
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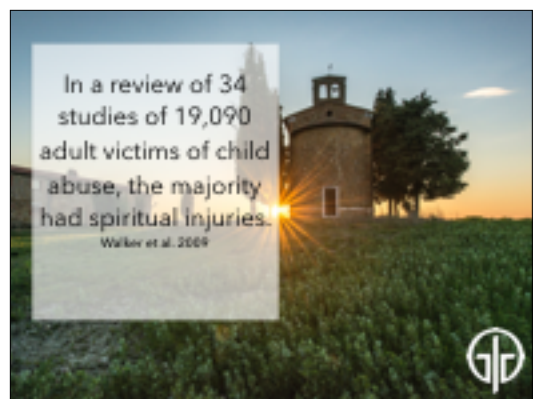
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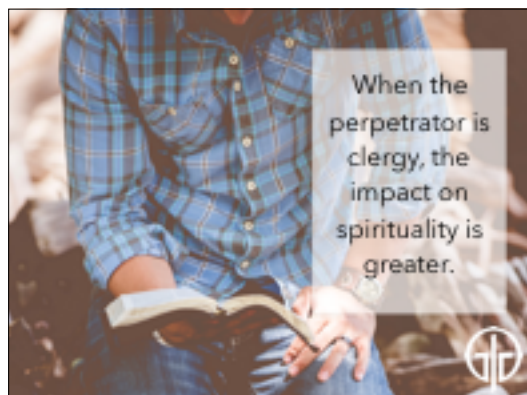
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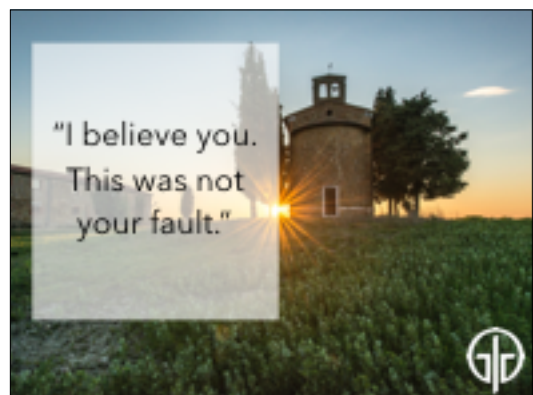
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16

How do victims act?

- Are victims invisible Sunday morning - e.g. is abuse ever mentioned?
- Create a space for lament in worship - acknowledge deep hurt and pray for justice and healing.
- Show the congregation you value and listen to survivors (don't give abusers a platform).
- Teach and model respect for boundaries and consent (so parents and others learn).
- Distinguish sinning and being violated (sinned against)

CHILD ABUSE  
eats away at faith.

"Where was God during my abuse?"

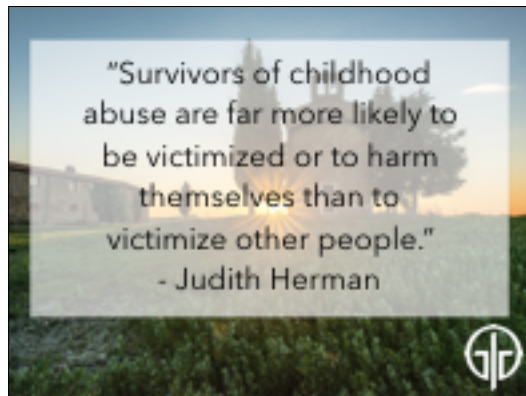
In a review of 34 studies of 19,090 adult victims of child abuse, the majority had spiritual injuries.  
Walker et al. 2009

When the perpetrator is clergy, the impact on spirituality is greater.

The role of faith in coping with abuse.

Children often blame themselves for abuse.

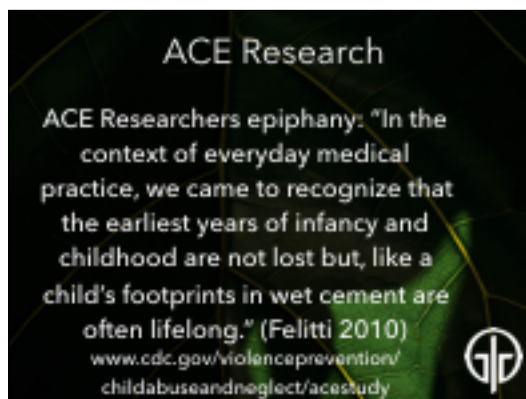
"I believe you. This was not your fault."



17



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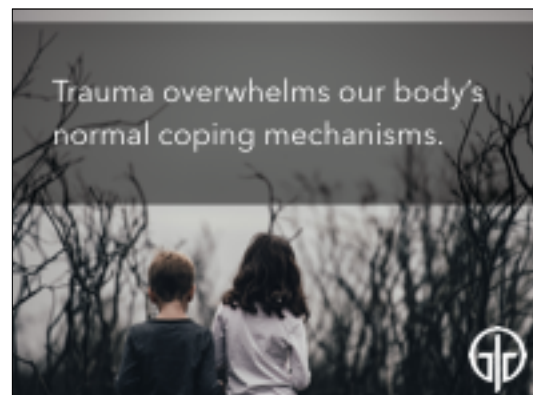
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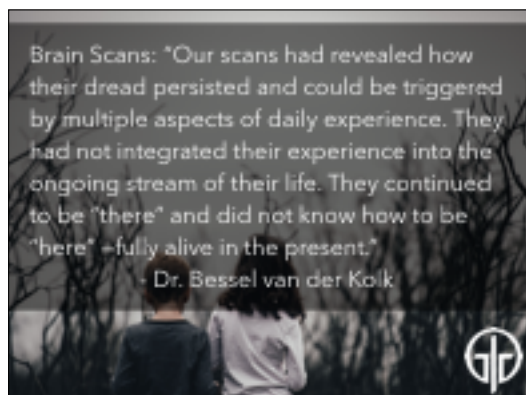
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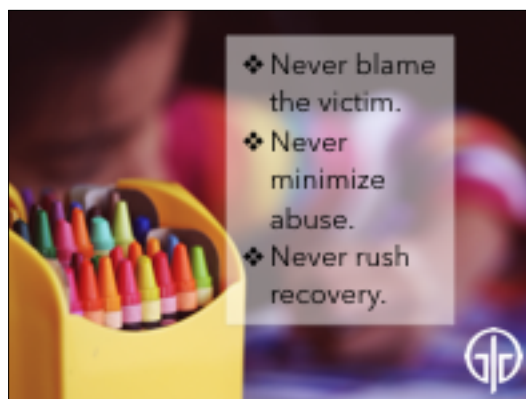
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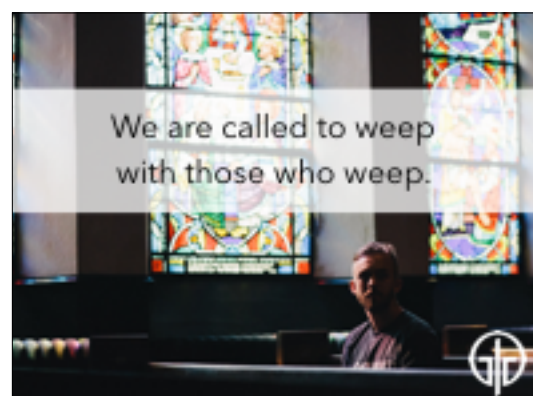
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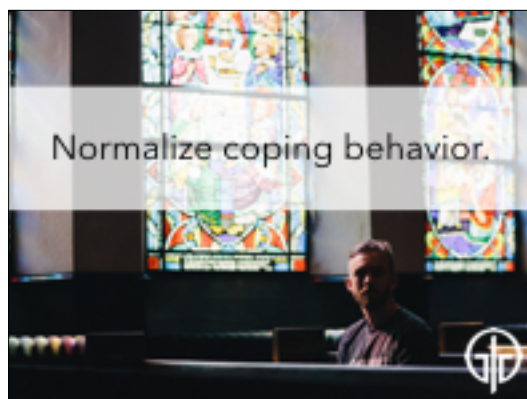
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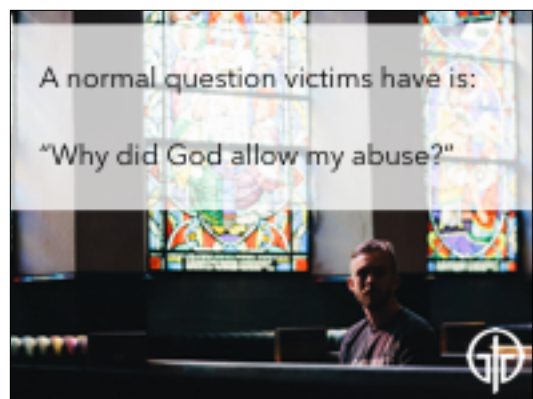
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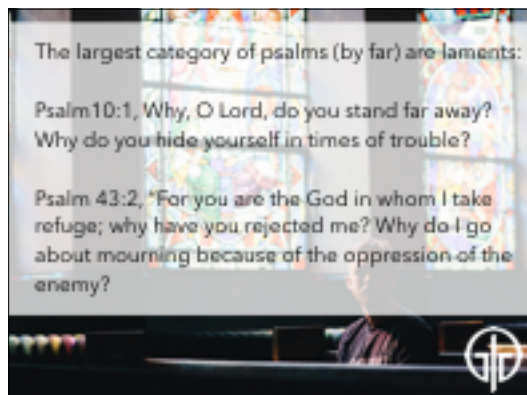
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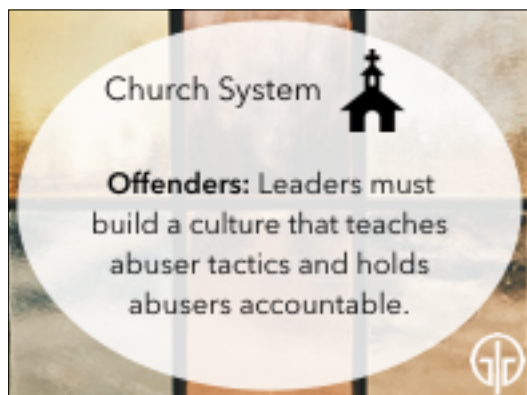
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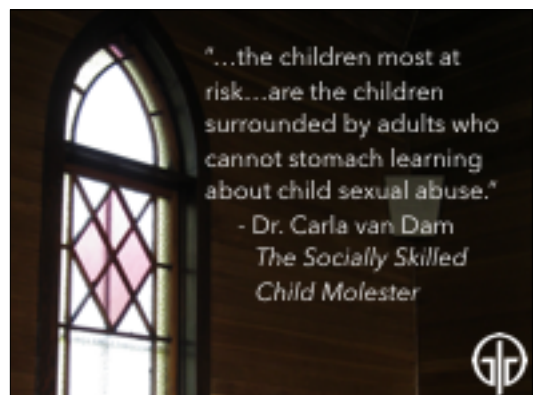
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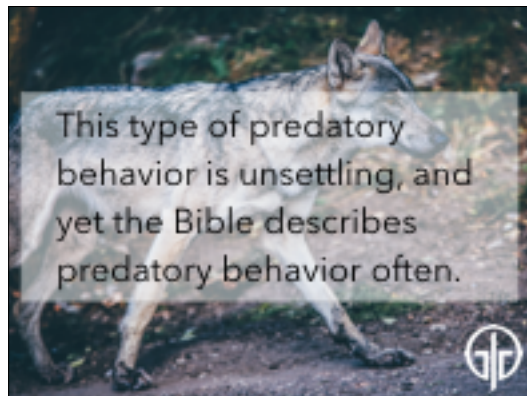
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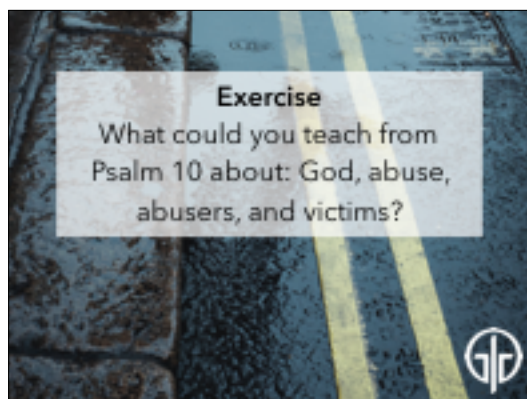
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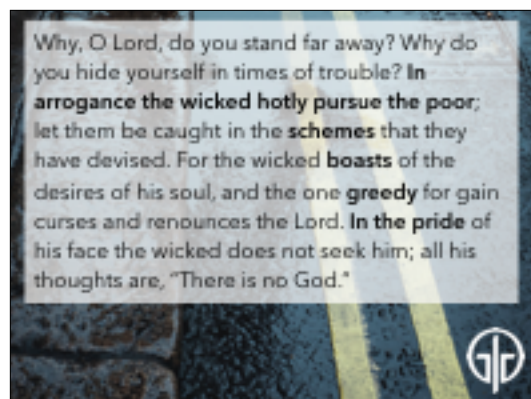
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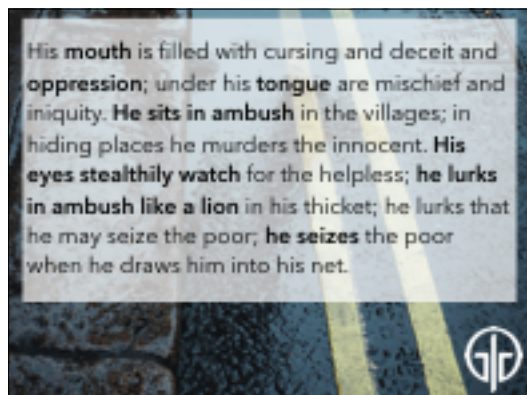
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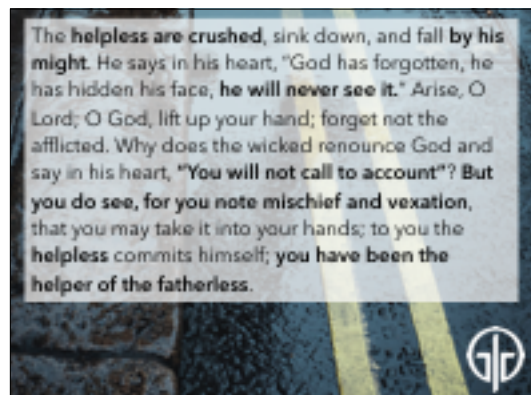
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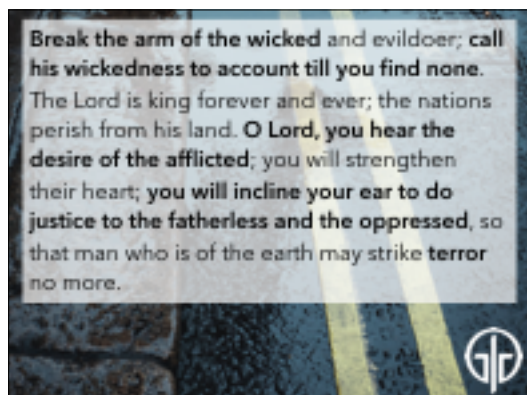
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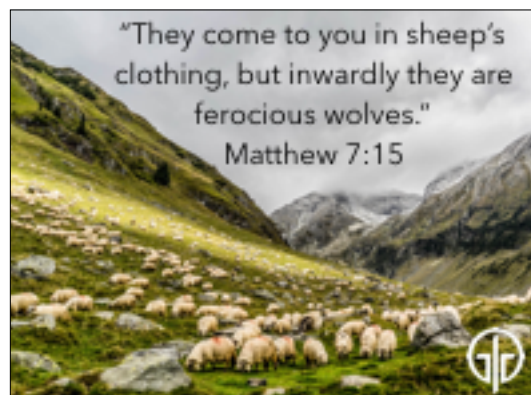
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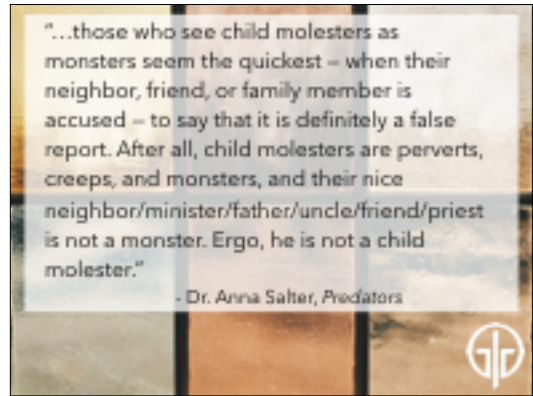


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Where is the wolf?

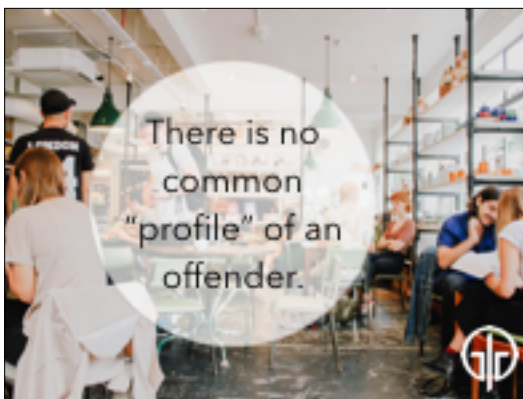
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"...those who see child molesters as monsters seem the quickest – when their neighbor, friend, or family member is accused – to say that it is definitely a false report. After all, child molesters are perverts, creeps, and monsters, and their nice neighbor/minister/father/uncle/friend/priest is not a monster. Ergo, he is not a child molester."

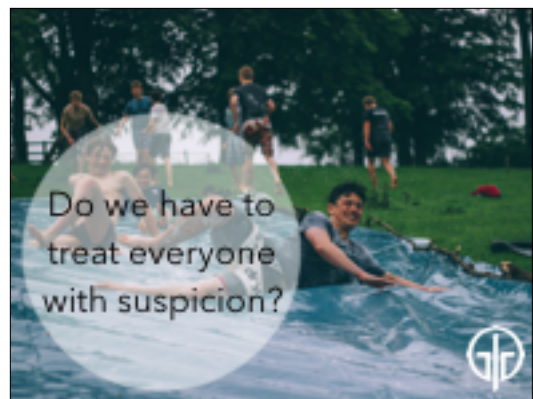
- Dr. Anna Salter, *Predators*

50



There is no common "profile" of an offender.

51



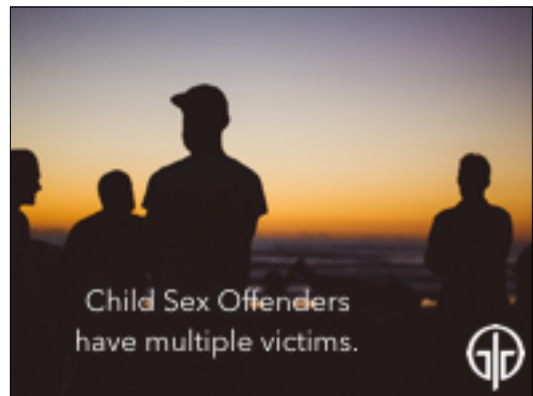
Do we have to treat everyone with suspicion?

52



Offenders Live a Double Life in our Communities

53



Child Sex Offenders have multiple victims.

54



Offenders know most people in a church are unwilling to suspect people they know and like.

55



Offenders create opportunities to violate children using a set of behaviors we call "grooming."

56



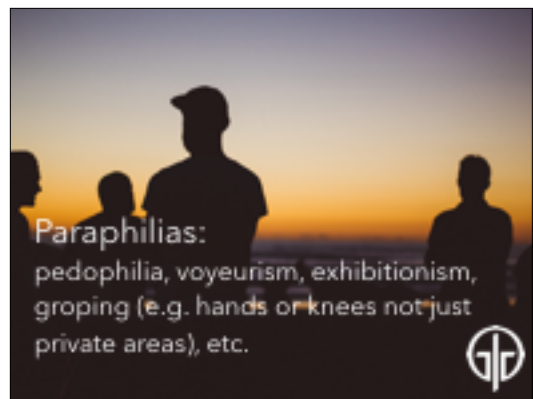
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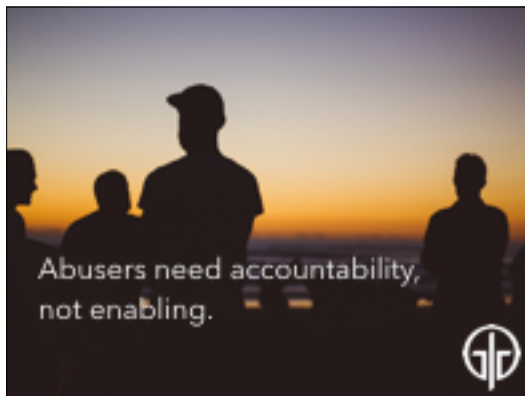
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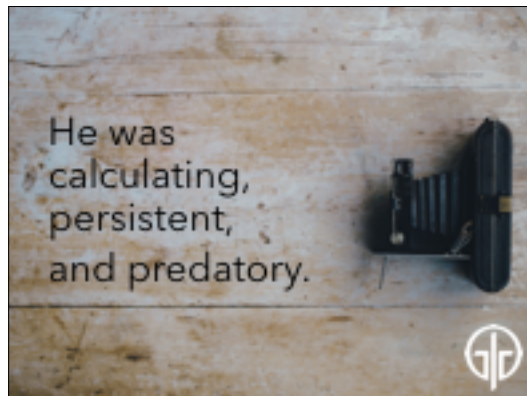


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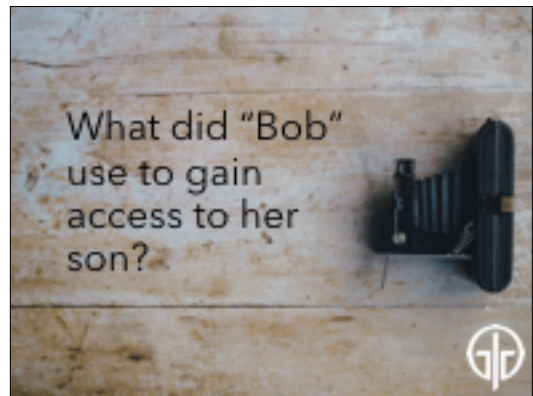


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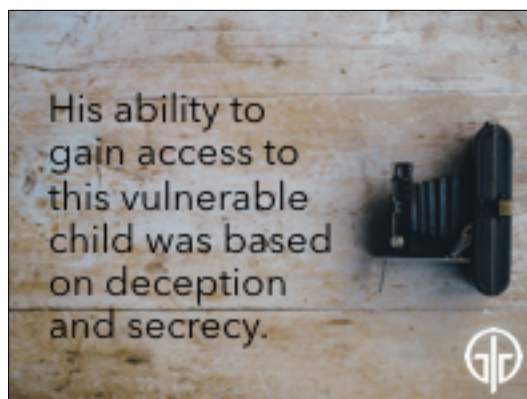




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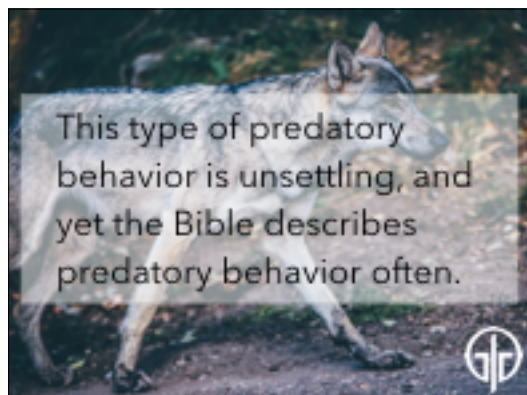
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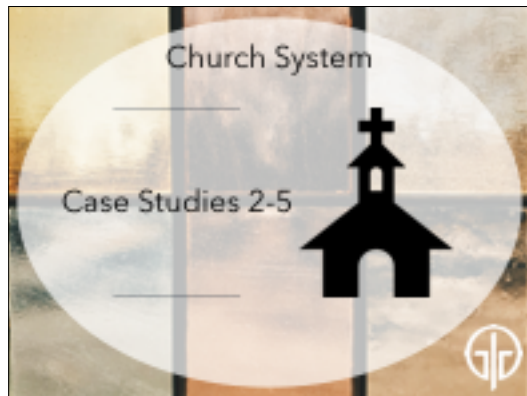
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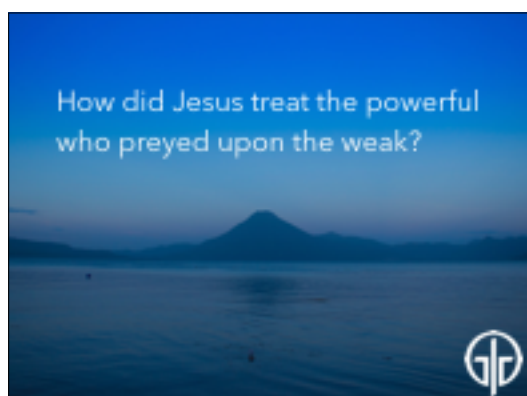
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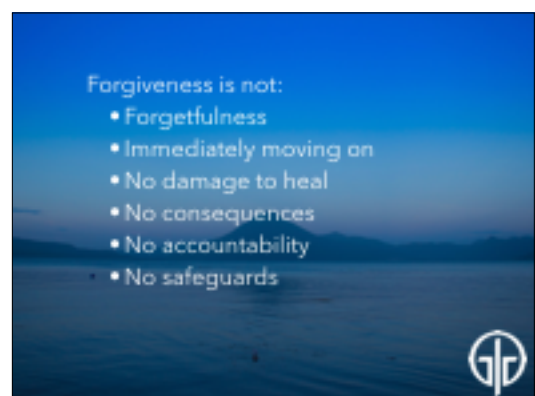
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78



79



80

What do we want to see from abusers?

- Take full responsibility
- No excuses, minimization, or rationalization
- No blaming of victim
- Cares most for the victims more than self
- Knows change will be difficult
- Accepts consequences and accountability
- Actions, not only words
- Time




81

Abusers need accountability first if they are to come into a place of repentance and forgiveness.




82

Child sex offenders who continue patterns of minimization, denial, excuses, and victim-blaming are not repentant. They are dangerous and should not be welcome in a local church.



83

- Do not take a neutral stance with abuse as this reinforces the powerlessness of the victim
- Immediately Report all suspected child abuse to proper authorities
- Do not focus on "forgiveness" but rebuke and the harm done to victims
- Confront any attempts to avoid accountability: minimization, rationalization, and victim-blaming
- Avoid sin leveling and "cheap grace"




84

Ministry System


Mission	God	Power
Denial	<b>Leaders</b>	Education
Victims	<b>Adults</b>	Offenders
Policy	<b>Kids</b>	Reporting



85

Church System 

**Policy:** Leaders must build a culture that where all adults take ownership of living an informed policy.



86

We protect what we value.



87

Faith communities need to work on a plan to keep the policy at the forefront in the community.



88



89



90



91



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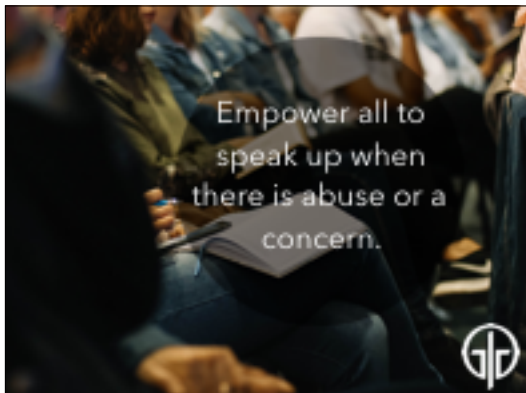
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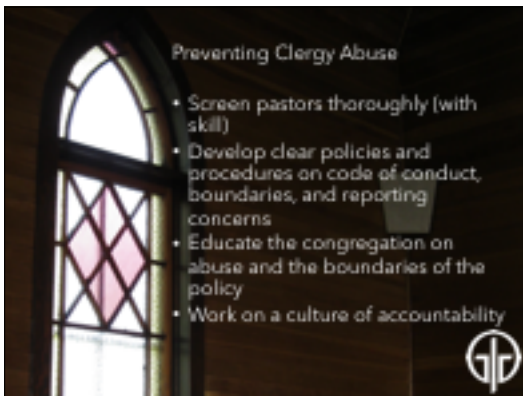
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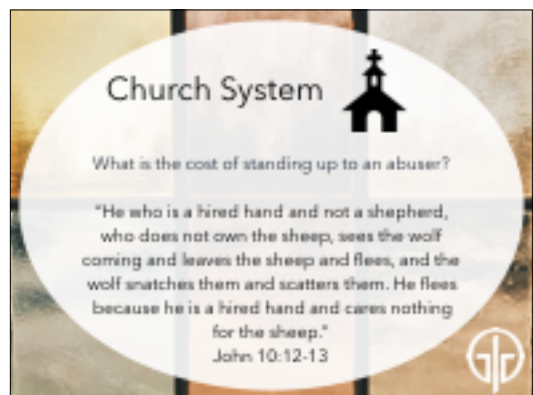
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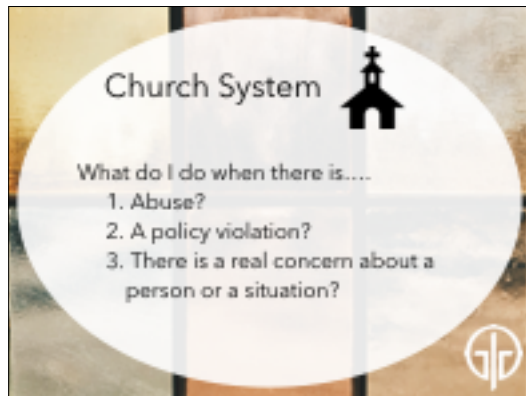
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103




104



Church System 

What do I do when there is....

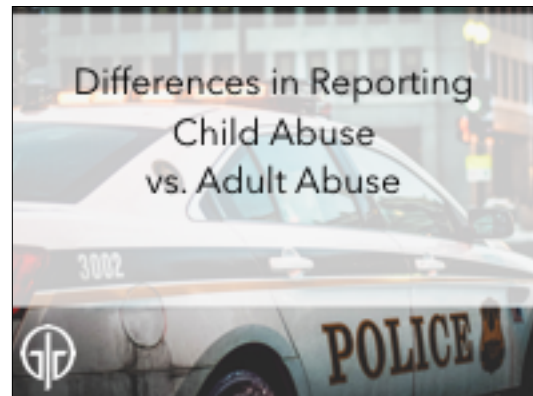
1. Abuse?
2. A policy violation?
3. There is a real concern about a person or a situation?



105



Differences in Reporting  
Child Abuse  
vs. Adult Abuse



106



REPORT.  
DON'T INVESTIGATE.

Much child abuse  
goes unreported.



107



REPORT.  
DON'T INVESTIGATE.

All adults have a moral  
obligation to report child  
abuse, whether or not they are  
legally mandated to do so.



108



Reporting Child Abuse and  
Neglect in Arizona:  
24 hour hotline  
1-888-SOS-CHILD



109

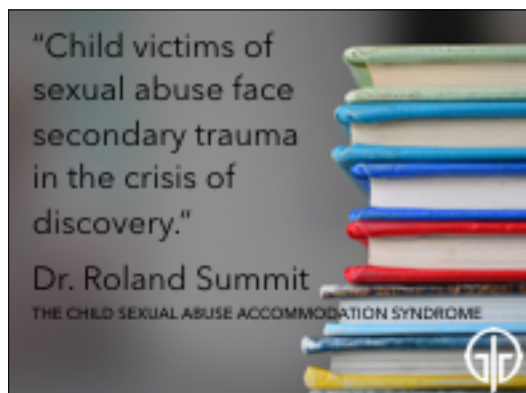


REPORT.  
DON'T INVESTIGATE.


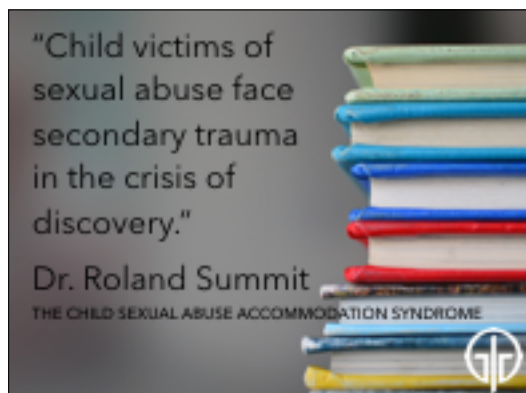
Why shouldn't the organization  
do its own investigation before  
reporting to make sure abuse  
has taken place?



110



"Child victims of  
sexual abuse face  
secondary trauma  
in the crisis of  
discovery."  
Dr. Roland Summit  
THE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ACCOMMODATION SYNDROME



111



REPORT.  
DON'T INVESTIGATE.

Won't this ruin the  
perpetrator's life forever?



112



113



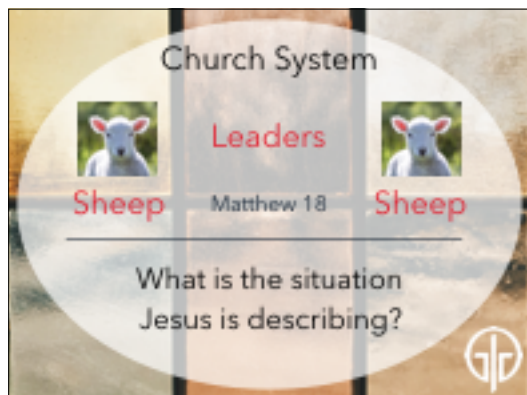
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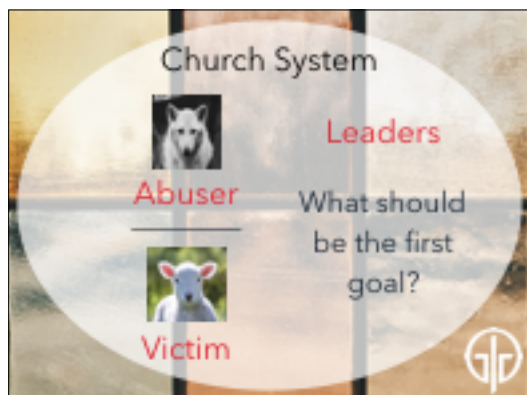
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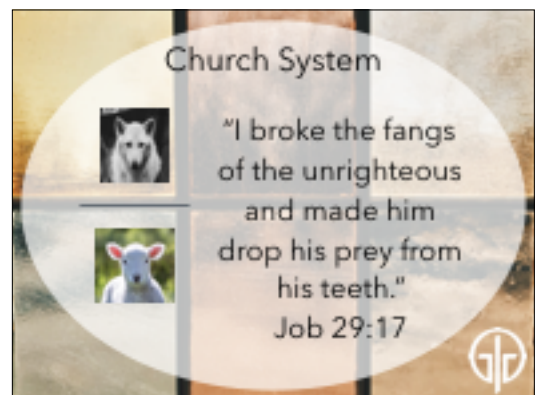
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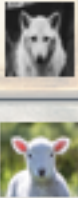


119




120

Church System



"Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."  
Psalm 82:4



121

Ministry System



"What happens when it's a trusted person at this church?...The extent that one is willing to speak out against their own community is the bright line test for how much they care and how much they understand."  
- Rachael Denhollander



122

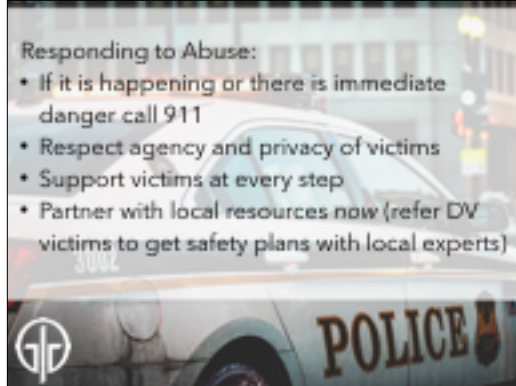

Reporting Adult Abuse




123

Responding to Abuse:

- If it is happening or there is immediate danger call 911
- Respect agency and privacy of victims
- Support victims at every step
- Partner with local resources now (refer DV victims to get safety plans with local experts)

124

Responding to Domestic Violence  
Pamela Cooper-White:

1. Believe her.
2. Remember her safety first at all times.
3. Let her know that being battered is not her fault.
4. Share with her the myths and stereotypes about battered women and the information you have learned.
5. Refer her to expert, specialized help. (counseling/psychotherapy AND advocacy - legal, financial, medical, housing, etc.)




125

Responding to Domestic Violence  
Pamela Cooper-White:



6. Respect her right to self-determination.
7. Do not use a couple-counseling format.
8. Regarding help for the batterer, let him know that you stand ready to support him with referrals to batterers' programs to help him stop his violence, but let him know that violence is wrong, period.
9. Let the congregation know that it is ok to talk about abuse.
10. Assure the battered woman of God's love and help her build a spiritual support community.




126

Responding to Clergy Abuse



- Do we have an agenda to protect the institution or seek justice?
- Treat it as the most serious of sins even if it is not a crime according to your state law.
- Investigations should be independent, transparent, and conducted by those who are well-versed in abuse dynamics.

127

Responding to Clergy Abuse

The church having been groomed is in the worst position to assess the situation. Education, Denial, and Love for Justice often cannot rise to meet the challenge of the skilled predatory pastor.

128



Responding to Clergy Abuse

Do not enter into mediation or negotiation.



Suspend and draw boundaries appropriate to the seriousness of the situation.



129

Responding to Clergy Abuse

Ideally we want advocates to care for the victims and minimize re-traumatization (e.g. not making victims recount their story over and over, not calling them into an all male church meeting or facing abuser, or releasing private information including their names).



130

Responding to Sexual Assault

Recognize the complexity of reporting and navigating the legal system for victims:  
What do victims face?



131

Responding to Sexual Assault

- Crisis skills are needed so connect to local resources for care and options.
- Belief and support are critical to long term recovery.
- Apply the Bible in ways that address harm - taking of dignity, agency, etc.
- Refer severe symptoms of trauma to professional care.





132

Seek Justice





133

The dynamics of abuse - power, deception, secrecy, and control - are still at work after abuse begins to come to light.



134

Leaders and others within the system are often easily manipulated by an offender even after they are caught.



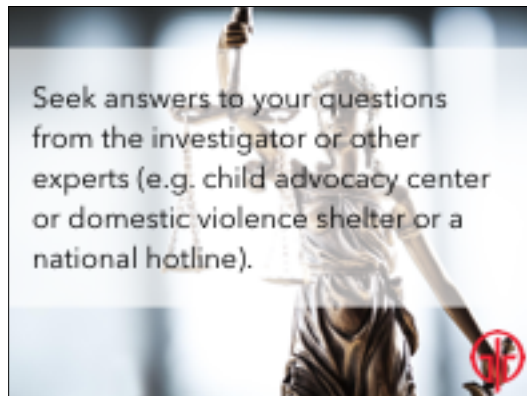
135

Courageously counter minimization and manipulation by offenders and allies:

- "This was not a 'relationship'."
- "This was not a 'mistake.'"
- "Accountability is not opposed to forgiveness."
- "This was not her fault in any way."
- "How do you know this is a false allegation?"

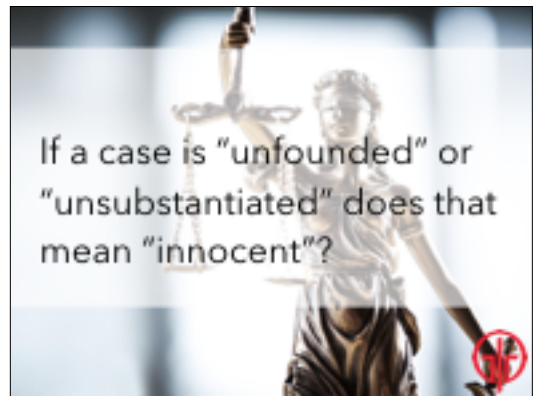


136



Seek answers to your questions from the investigator or other experts (e.g. child advocacy center or domestic violence shelter or a national hotline).

137



If a case is “unfounded” or “unsubstantiated” does that mean “innocent”?

138



### Focus on the Victims

1. Safety for the victims and others is priority one.
2. Medical/Professional Mental Health Care
3. Compassionate listening: Continue to ask what is needed and respond with care and creativity.
4. Do not ever push forgiveness, reconciliation, or meeting with the abuser.
5. Lament/righteous anger is appropriate
6. Do not leave your field of expertise.

139



Never force a victim to meet with their abuser.

140



Protect the privacy of victims:  
Ask for permission before sharing details about the victim.

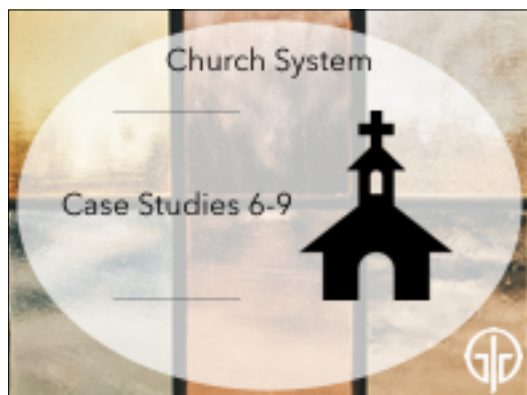
141



When the abuser is a member of staff or a volunteer:

- Give an unequivocal apology on behalf of the church.
- Offer help with practical needs (therapy, medical care, etc.)
- Seek to learn from the past and improve child protection measures.

142

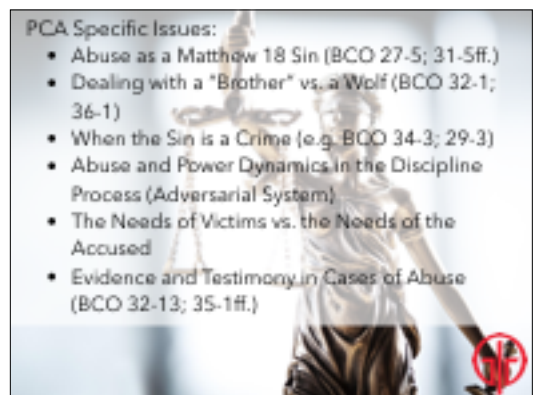


Church System

Case Studies 6-9



143



PCA Specific Issues:

- Abuse as a Matthew 18 Sin (BCO 27-5; 31-5ff.)
- Dealing with a “Brother” vs. a Wolf (BCO 32-1; 36-1)
- When the Sin is a Crime (e.g. BCO 34-3; 29-3)
- Abuse and Power Dynamics in the Discipline Process (Adversarial System)
- The Needs of Victims vs. the Needs of the Accused
- Evidence and Testimony in Cases of Abuse (BCO 32-13; 35-1ff.)

144



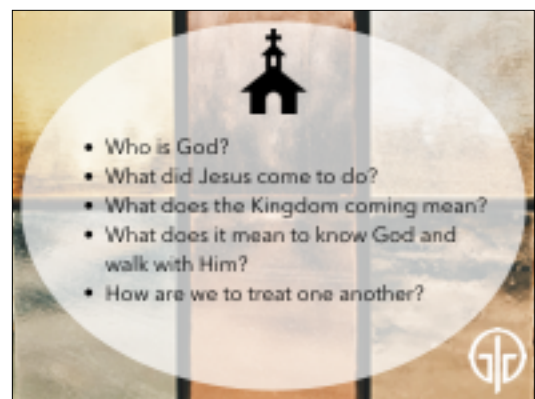
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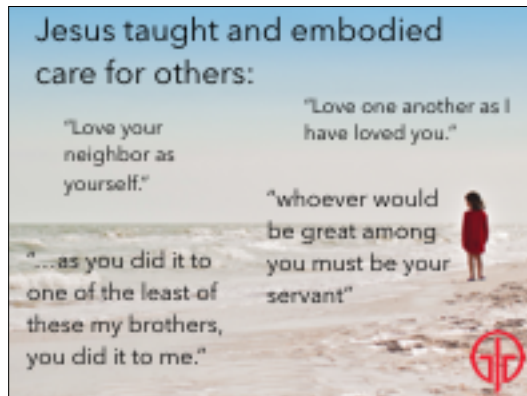
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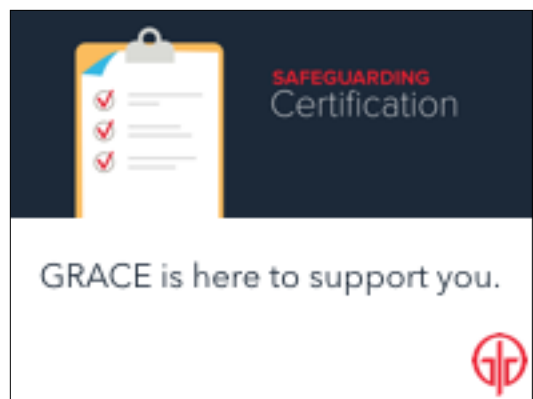
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