

Protecting children from sexual abuse is an adult responsibility.

Child sexual abuse happens in families, but also in organizations. Children brave terrible abuses alone, and repeatedly, often with no protection.

Sometimes adults have simply lacked prevention knowledge, or not had the awareness to recognize signs. Sometimes we've dismissed gut feelings, and missed opportunities for courage.

Some have covered up abuse at the expense of our children.

What is child sexual abuse?

- ◇ Any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or between two minors, when one exerts power over the other.
- ◇ Forcing, coercing or persuading a child to engage in any type of sexual act. It also includes non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or Internet.
- ◇ Often a traumatic experience for children and teens.
- ◇ A crime punishable by law.

How Can I Learn More About Protecting Children?

Prevention training for adults creates a culture of awareness. It gives people the skills to create safer environments. It makes them more willing to intervene in unsafe behaviors by adults with children.

Stewards of Children® is a program that teaches adults to:

- ◇ Prevent sexual abuse before it can happen.
- ◇ Recognize signs of sexual abuse in children.
- ◇ Recognize unsafe behaviors by adults.
- ◇ React responsibly when a child discloses, or when an adult discovers or suspects sexual abuse.

Stewards of Children® is a 2-hour training that features video of survivors of sexual abuse and an interactive workbook. It is led by a certified facilitator. Missouri Baptist Children's Home is offering this training to churches, schools and organizations.

DO YOU KNOW THE 5 STEPS TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

STEP ONE: LEARN THE FACTS

One in 10 children will be sexually abused before the age of 18.



STEP TWO: MINIMIZE OPPORTUNITY



More than **80%** of sexual abuse cases occur in isolated, one-on-one situations.

STEP THREE: TALK ABOUT IT

Children often keep abuse a secret. Talk openly with them to prevent sexual abuse.



STEP FOUR: RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS

Often the signs are **EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIORAL**, not physical.



STEP FIVE: REACT RESPONSIBLY

Learn how to offer support and report suspicion or discovery immediately.



DARKNESS TO LIGHT STEWARDS OF CHILDREN

DO YOU KNOW?



SHARE
WITH YOUR FRIENDS
AND
SPREAD THE WORD

