

"Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them."

Ecclesiastes 4:1





A man (age 24) seeks out the help of his pastor (age 40) regarding his depression and his marriage. The pastor meets regularly with the man to talk, do Bible study, and pray. Eventually, the pastor convinces him to do "counseling" sessions and Bible study in the nude with him. He shows him pornography and in the name of helping his marriage sexually, the pastor gets the man to masturbate together with him. The pastor tells him, "God needs you to trust him completely." The man is confused by all of this, but he trusts this pastor, and is embarrassed and scared to tell anyone. He is not even sure who he would tell about this, everyone knows and loves the pastor. He is not sure he would be believed and he is also afraid that if he tells someone they might think he is gay. The pastor says he can't tell anyone or the ministry will suffer and people will go to hell because of him.

What common dynamics of abuse do you notice in this situation?



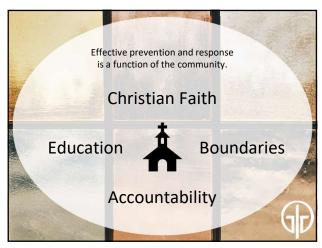


Kate is 13 years old, outgoing, and typically a good student. Recently, her parents divorced. She is now struggling in school and seems more withdrawn. Tony, her youth pastor, is a seminary graduate and is ordained as a pastor in the church. He is funny, charismatic, and a great Bible teacher. The kids love him and the parents love him because they see kids wanting to go to church. His colleagues also appreciate that Tony is helping draw more families to the church. One Wednesday night, as student ministry is winding down, only a few people are left waiting around the foyer of the church. Kate's mom is running late to pick ber up. Tony says to Kate, "Hey, I've got something for you I forgot. Come with me to my office for a second." Tony and Kate walk away from everyone toward a back hall and Tony's office. No one is in that area at this time; and it is relatively isolated. As Tony and Kate turn a cornet, they pass a mom in the church who ran back to grab her son's coloring paper, that he left in the classroom.

What needs to be in place in this church culture so we could reasonably expect this mom to interrupt the unsafe one adult one child situation?

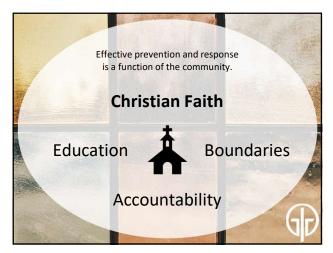
What are some prevention measures that could help?

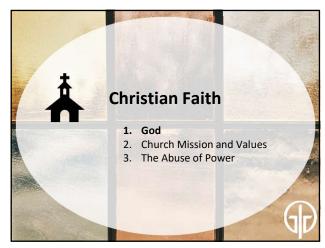
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1. Ground abuse prevention in the Christian faith as a matter of discipleship and identity.
2. Raise the education level of all in appropriate ways.
3. Clarify appropriate conduct and set clear boundaries - especially toward the vulnerable.
4. Engage all in a culture of ownership of prevention and response where all are empowered to hold one another accountable.

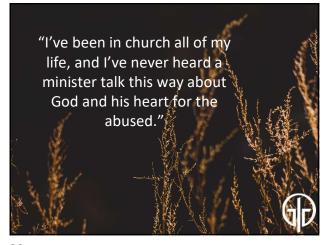




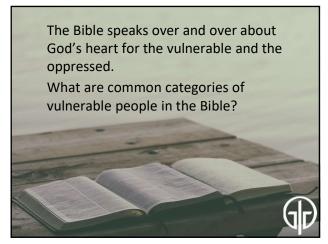




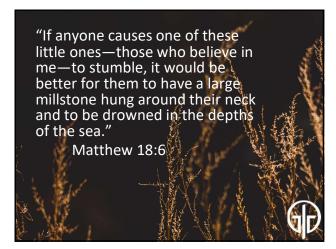


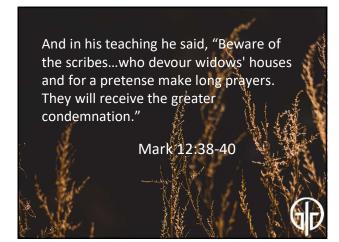




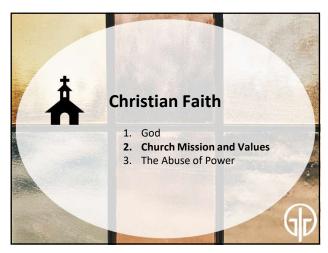


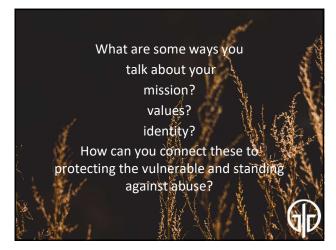


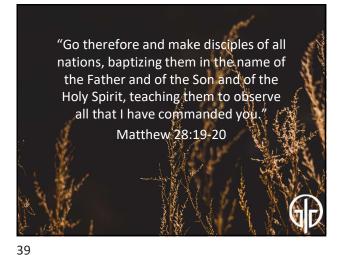




God Speaks Against Violence Psalm 11:5 The Lord hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. Psalm 73:6 For the wicked pride is their necklace; violence are the clothes they wear. Prov. 3:31 God says "Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways". Prov. 24:2 The hearts of the wicked devise violence

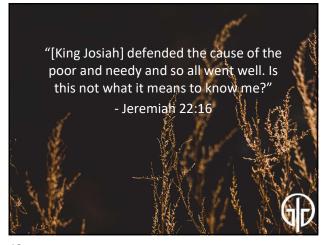








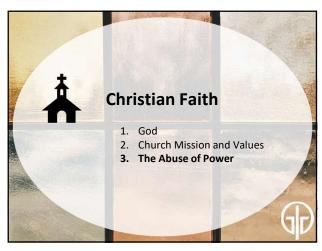








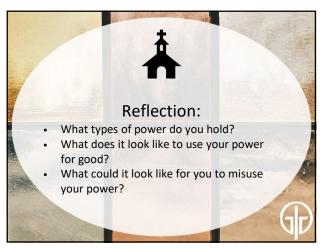






Mark is a good pastor. He does not abuse his power. Pastor Mark graduated seminary with honors. He is pursuing a PhD. He is beloved in his church for his sense of humor, his kindness, and willingness to help. He gives skillful sermons that inspire and encourage his flock. He is average height, but his personality and presence can fill up a room. He is not affaid to speak about his own humanity and share about his own vulnerability. Many in the church view him as an extension of their family.

What types of power does Mark have? What forms of power do you see here?



Organizations do well to establish clear boundaries in power dynamics:

Pastor - Congregant

Supervisor - Employee

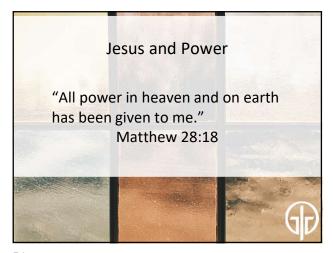
Counselor - Counseled

Teacher - Student

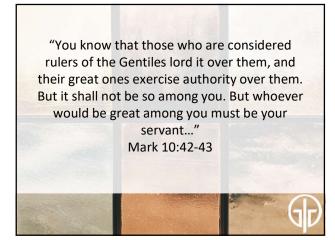
Adult - Minor

Mentor - Mentored

Older Child - Younger Child



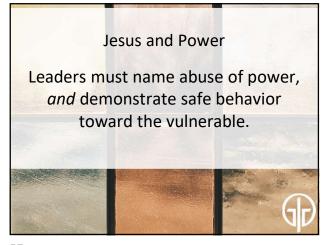




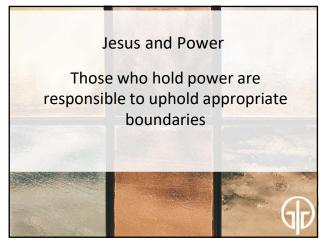


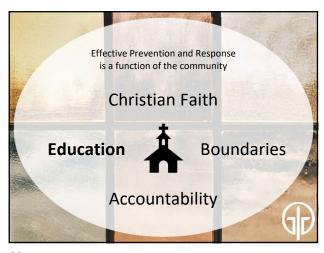


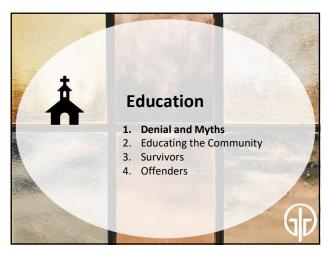




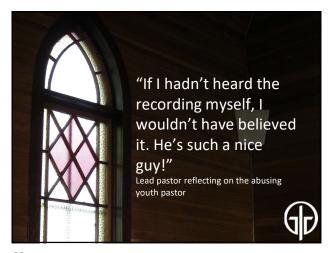








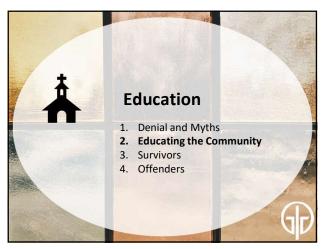












US Child Abuse Statistics • Sexual Abuse: 1 in 4 women, 1 in 6 men • Physical Abuse: 1 in 4 • Emotional Abuse: 11% • Neglect: 10% • Emotional Neglect: 15% • Spiritual Abuse

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US Abuse Statistics Intimate Partner Violence: 1 in 3 women in the US (American Medical Association) Clergy Sexual Abuse: over 10% of clergy (Sexual Abuse by Clergy: A Crisis for the Church by Marie M. Fortune and James N. Poling)





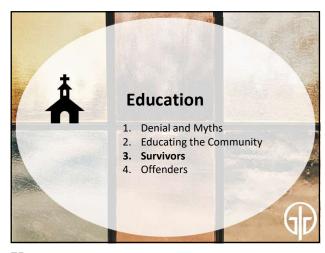


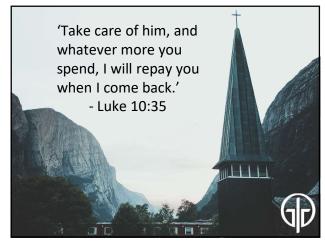
- "We don't want to give the impression that abuse is a problem in our church."
- "I don't even want to think about abuse, much less spend my morning (or afternoon) in a training."
- "I don't know anyone who has been abused, why do I have to do training?"
- "I don't work with the kids or youth, is this training for me?"



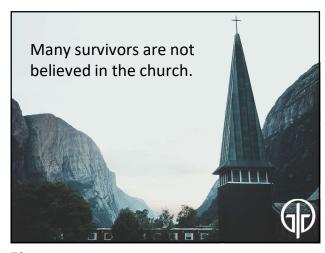


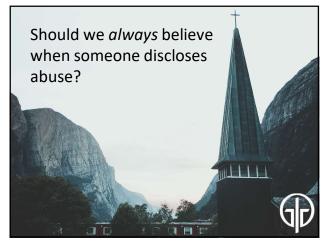
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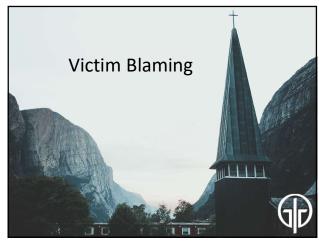




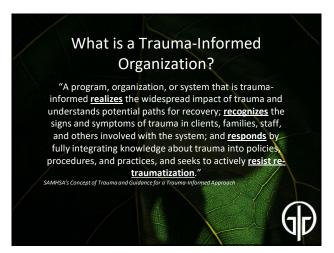


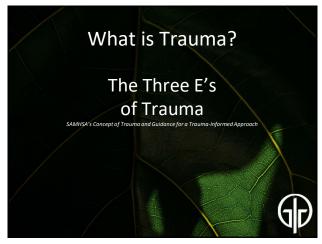






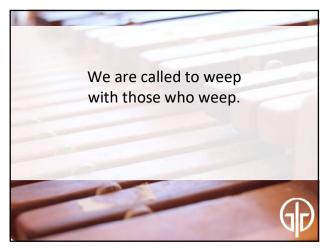
















Trauma-Informed Pastoral Care Trauma is a common impact from abuse. In caring for others, we have to account for the harm and reality of trauma as we respond to love our neighbor as ourselves. Good pastoral care and support accounts for the nature of trauma and its potential impacts. Some basic starting principles to account for are: 1. Safety: In abuse, safety is shattered. Trauma-informed care prioritizes establishing safety. List some ways that a care team might address issues of safety in the wake of abuse as they care for an adult survivor of clergy sexual abuse

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Trauma-Informed Pastoral Care Dignity: In abuse, the dignity of the survivor is directly assaulted. Abuse dehumanizes. Trauma-informed care constantly looks for ways to affirm the dignity of the person. List some ways that a care team might affirm dignity in words and deeds in the wake of abuse as they care for an adult survivor of clergy sexual abuse.

Trauma-Informed Pastoral Care

Agency: God created us all as individual people with agency to live our lives and make choices. In abuse, the will of a person is violated. Trauma-informed care recognizes the importance of respecting the agency of a survivor and not seeking to perpetuate unhealthy patterns of directing there life, even though our intentions may be good (unlike the abuser). List some ways that a care team might encourage and support an adult survivor of clergy sexual abuse in exercising healthy agency in their life.



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Trauma-Informed Pastoral Care

Trustworthiness: Abuse is a deep betrayal of trust. Trauma-informed care recognizes that survivors need care that demonstrates trustworthiness. List some ways that a care team might demonstrate trustworthiness as they care for an adult survivor of clergy abuse. Also, list some words or behaviors to avoid if you can.

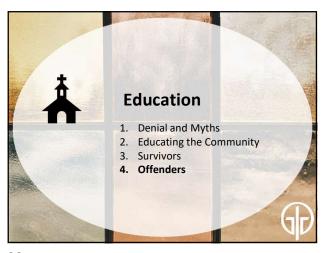


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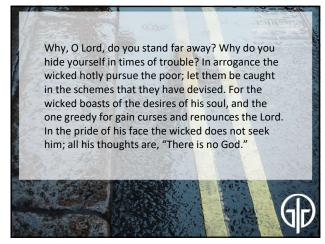


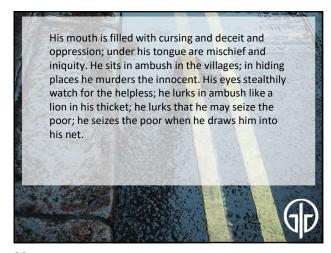


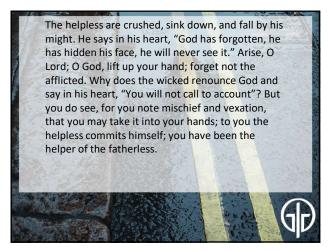


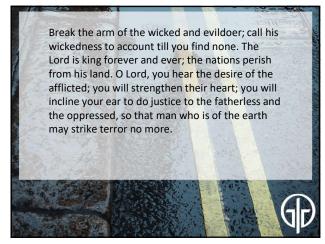
















Clergy/Leader Tactics Against Adults - It's not "an affair"

- The specific behaviors and tactics will vary: 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)



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Abusers Adapt their Tactics

- Isolation (sudden, late hours, more intimate setting like a home/apt. or trip, including isolated communication like texting)
- Special gifts or focused attention
- Touch (e.g. progression or in isolation, anything sensual or intimate)
- Sexual language, jokes, stories, topics
- Secrecy (gifts, alcohol, money)
- Any manipulation or deception or attempts to enforce secrecy or threats

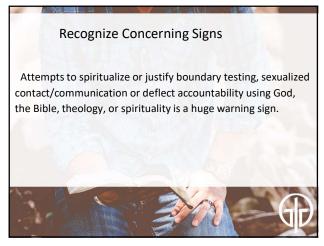
Common Offender Distortions • Pretense: mentoring, counseling, discipling, education, medical treatment/hygiene, helping/getting your help, etc. • Deflection/Deceptions: misunderstanding, mistake, accident, false allegation • Excuses: marriage or alcohol/medication, stress, hard childhood

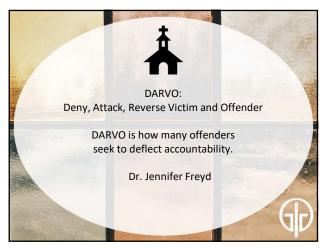
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Recognize Concerning Signs Those in positions of greater vulnerability should be empowered by leaders to ask for any reasonable boundary they feel is necessary in any given situation. This should be respected without any accusation or questioning why they feel it is necessary.

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Recognize Concerning Signs Those in positions of power and trust are responsible and able to respect appropriate boundaries. Document any concerning behavior if you can and talk to someone trusted as soon as you are able to do so. Pay attention to your gut and speak up if you are able to do so.

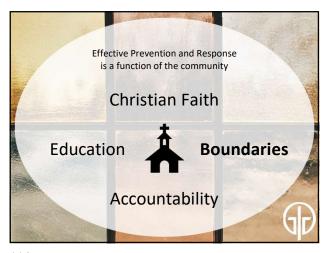








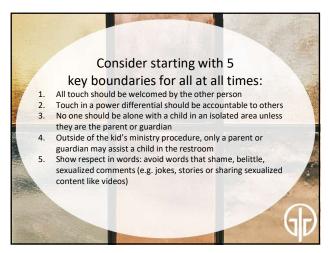






















Effective prevention depends upon a culture:

- Leaders name abuse often, and preach against entitlement and abuse of power.
- Leaders constantly hold up God's heart for survivors and God's hatred of violence and abuse and hold abusers accountable.
- Education: Abuse is talked about, named, and examples and dynamics are understood by the whole community.
- The community views abuse as a common and yet egregious sin, diametrically opposed to the way of Jesus.

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Effective prevention depends upon a culture:

- The community believes everyone deserves to live free of abuse - the dignity and the worth of each person is emphasized.
- The community emphasizes healthy agency, empowerment, and boundaries. Respect and consent are primary concerns.
- Some in the church are ready to help provide information, support, and connection to local resources, which are known and trusted by the church.
- The community is learning about trauma-informed principles (SAMHSA resource)

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