



REDEEMER
COMMUNITY CHURCH

A Seminar About Abuse

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Overview

Time	Topic
8:00 AM	Welcome
8:15	First Session: What is Abuse? Q+A – Text anonymous questions to 512-898-9138
9:30	Break
9:45	Second Session: Walking with Someone who has experienced abuse Q+A – Text anonymous questions to 512-898-9138
11:15	Break
11:30	Third Session: Protection and Prevention Panel Q+A – Text anonymous questions to 512-898-9138
12:30	Closing

Session One: What is abuse?

I. Definition

a. Abuse is defined as a pattern of behavior used by one person to gain and maintain power and control over another.

i. Treating a human as an _____.

b. Five types of abuse:

Type	Examples
Physical	
Emotional	
Sexual	
Financial	
Spiritual	

c. How do we talk with people about abuse?

Ministry Recipients	Examples
Ages 0-5	
Ages 6-12	
Ages 13-17	
College	
Post Grad	

30+	
50+	
Engaged couples	
Married couples	

II. Resources

- a. Why Does He Do That? by Lundy Bancroft
- b. God Made All of Me, by Justin and Lindsay Holcomb (Illustrated Children’s book)
- c. What is a Little Girl Worth? By Rachael Denhollander (Illustrated Children’s book)
- d. “Identifying Oppression in Marriage” available for free at www.darbystrickland.com under the resource tab (and many other great resources)
- e. “Discovery Questions for Marital Sex Abuse” see above for access info
- f. On the Threshold of Hope by Diane Langberg
- g. Take the online Illinois Mandated Reporter training (free!) available at <https://mr.dcfstraining.org/UserAuth/Login!loginPage.action;jsessionid=EE3255523139E9FA1478F9C46FDD7562> or Google “Illinois Mandated Reporter Training”
- h. The Emotionally Destructive Relationship, by Leslie Vernick
- i. Faithful: A Theology of Sex, Dr. Beth Felker Jones

III. Reflection Questions

- a. Am I intimidated to use the “A-word” (abuse) when talking with someone about their experiences of extreme powerlessness/objectification? Why?
- b. Of the kinds of abuse identified today which one might you come across in the roles you serve in? In your home, workplace, church, community?
- c. How can you speak more accurately and compassionately about abuse with the people you serve? In your home, workplace, church, community?

Session Two: How do I walk with someone who is experiencing abuse?

“Trauma is the greatest mission field of the 21st century.” Diane Langberg, Suffering and the Heart of God

- I. “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20
 - a. Ambassadors: an official envoy, a diplomatic agent as the resident representative of his/her own government or sovereign or appointed for a special assignment.

- II. Messages victims hear that make it difficult to talk about their experience of abuse in church:

- III. What makes a good listener?

IV. Listening exercise

a. Questions to ask:

- i. What happened?
- ii. How did you feel?
- iii. What was the hardest part for you?

b. Table discussion

- i. How did you feel during this exercise?
- ii. Was anything difficult?
- iii. Did you feel heard when you were listened to? Why or why not?
- iv. What did the listener do well?

V. Resources

- a. Suffering and the Heart of God, by Diane Langberg
- b. Rid of My Disgrace: Hope and Healing for Victims of Sexual Assault, by Justin and Lindsey Holcomb
- c. Walking with God through Pain and Suffering, by Tim Keller
- d. Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help, by Harriet Hill, Margaret Hill, Richard Bagge, Pat Miersma
- e. "Ambassadors For Christ" by Paul David Tripp, Paultripp.com, July 13, 2015, <https://www.paultripp.com/articles/posts/ambassadors-for-christ>.

VI. Reflection questions

- a. What are your strengths and weaknesses as a listener?
- b. Are there messages from the church that impact how you choose to share your story? (And who you share it with?)
- c. How do you personally step into your calling as an "ambassador for Christ"?

Session Three: How do I protect victims and proactively prevent abuse?

- I. What is the church’s responsibility?
 - a. The Church’s responsibility is to _____ victims.
 - b. “The true church is to bring light into darkness, which means seeing things as they really are and calling them by their right name.”
 - c. “We are to be faithful to Him – not to our mission, to our system.”
 - d. “When we consider our churches, the real question is not ‘who are we?’ it is ‘who is He?’”
 - e. “By silencing the voices of the victims, and rushing to protect our institutions, and by striving for externally pristine environments that do not expose our great unlikeness to Christ, we are missing Him.”
 - i. Quotes come from Diane Langberg, The Church as a Refuge, conference presented on April 4, 2019.

Ministry Recipient	Responsibility
Victims	
Abusers	
Potential Victims	
Potential abusers	
Congregation	

II. Additional Resources

- a. "G.R.A.C.E" aka Godly Response to Abuse in Christian Environments
 - i. www.netgrace.org
 - ii. Independent investigations
 - iii. Church safeguarding certificate
 - iv. Free and for purchase resources
- b. "CCEF" aka Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation
 - i. www.ccef.org → search "Abuse"
- c. What is a Girl Worth?, by Rachael Denhollander
- d. On Guard: Preventing and Responding to Child Abuse at Church, by Deepak Reju
- e. This Little Light, by Christa Brown
- f. The #MeToo Reckoning, by Ruth Everhart
- g. We Too, by Mary DeMuth
- h. The Creaking on the Stairs, by Mex McConnell
- i. "Let the Little Children Come to Church Safely" by Abby Perry, October 10, 2019, Christianity Today,
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2019/october-web-only/keep-children-safe-in-church-southern-baptists.html>

III. Reflection Questions

- a. Why is protecting victims so closely tied to preventing abuse?
- b. Of the ministry recipients listed above, who are you most likely to serve?
- c. What are your strengths and weaknesses re: protect and prevent?
- d. Do you have suggestions/ideas for protecting and preventing abuse in your home? Congregation? Workplace? Etc.?
 - i. Who can you collaborate with to implement these ideas?