

## **Keeping Wolves Out of Children's Ministry**

1. The Profile of a Wolf/Predator
2. Statistics Regarding Abuse
  - a. It takes years for abused people to come forward to report the abuse.
  - b. One in four girls are sexually abused and one in nine boys are sexually abused.
  - c. 60% of victims report their abuse by adulthood and 40% never report their abuse.
  - d. 92%-98% of child abuse reports from victims are true and accurate.
  - e. 90% of child abuse victims know their abusers personally.
3. Abuse Happens in The Shadows, In the Exception to The Rules, And in The Vague Areas
4. Wolves/Predators Look to Groom Children, Parents, And Gate Keepers
  - a. Grooming encompasses the tactics that wolves use to gain the trust of gatekeepers and befriend children.
  - b. Giving gifts/introducing games of touch
  - c. Helping out/gaining the trust of the gatekeepers to gain access to children/don't be needy
  - d. Meeting outside church/off site/no isolated one-on-one time (Cars and transportation)
  - e. Single moms are a main target for wolves/predators
5. The Best Way to Keep Wolves Out of Children's Ministry Is to Never Let Them In/High Walls
  - a. Look up candidates on their Social Media to check for godly character and lifestyles.
  - b. Questionnaires/theological questions and safety questions
  - c. CA AB506 effective Jan. 2022. If volunteers have contact with children for 16 hours per month or 32 hours a year and are over 18; they must be fingerprinted and go through the SDSS mandated reporter training (4 hours). There must be two mandated reporters present at every event.
  - d. Background checks/screening: <https://www.protectmyministry.com/>
  - e. References/three to four (non-familial, non-pastoral and get a third-party reference).
  - f. Orientation meeting to ensure a good fit for Children's Ministry.
  - g. Policy and Procedure training/make clear bright lines of physical and verbal boundaries.
  - h. Align vision and values regarding safety to multiply shepherds.
6. Never Be Alone with A Child/Privacy Is the Breeding Ground for Abuse and Accusations
7. Accountability/Teams of Two Or More/Line of Sight
8. Integrity/Above Reproach/Appropriate Touch and Sitting Requirements
9. Transparency/Visibility/Open Blinds/Make Sure Lights Are On

10. Coordinators/Roamers/Open Communication
11. Keep Watch/Guard the Vulnerable/See Something, Say Something/If It Looks Wrong, It Is Wrong
12. Check Megan's Law website and have a plan for sex offenders when they attend your church
  - a. Identify sex offenders and then set up a meeting for boundaries.
  - b. Sex offenders that have repented have the right to worship.
  - c. Families and children have the right to be kept safe and protected.
  - d. Set up a designated time/area for them to park, enter, sit, and exit the church.
  - e. Set up clear bright boundaries where they can and cannot go. Ex: No children's areas.
13. Imbalance of Power/Child-To-Child Abuse
  - a. Limit the number of children who use the bathroom at one time. (Rule of 5)
  - b. Older children must not use the restroom with younger children or special needs children.
  - c. Children who are overly aggressive must be watched and corrected.
14. The Hidden Door to Children
  - a. Electronic communication, phone calls/texts, emails, Instagram, and Facebook
  - b. No electronic communication is allowed between adults and minors in Children's Ministry.
  - c. All electronic communication corresponds through approved church platforms through approved church leaders.
  - d. If a child contacts a volunteer through any electronic communication, bring it to the Children's Ministry leader ASAP for safety, transparency, integrity, and accountability.

**Contact:** Pastor Mark Carson, [mcarson@ccmodesto.com](mailto:mcarson@ccmodesto.com) Parenting Seminars and Children's Ministry Training Seminars Available

## Resources

Statistics: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/childsexualabuse.html>

Calvary Chapel Modesto P & P: <https://www.ccmodesto.com/cmpoliciesandprocedures/>

Calvary Chapel Modesto Questionnaire: <https://ccmodesto.formstack.com/forms/cmqr>

Calvary Chapel Modesto Web Page: <https://www.ccmodesto.com/childrensministry/>