

Understanding Predators

1. False Assumptions that We Make.
 - a) We assume it will happen to someone else.
 - b) We assume we are safe.
 - c) We assume we can recognize them (i.e., they will be “monsters” and not like us).
 - d) We assume they exist only in certain social and economic demographics.
2. Types, Techniques, and Targets of Predators
 - a) Type of Predators
 - i. Word pictures—power predator (bear) and persuasion predator (shark)
 - ii. Profile: Mostly men, some women / any economic and social demographic
 - b) Technique—Double-life, Grooming, Counting on No Disclosure
 - c) Target
 - i. Access to kids; easy access (example, targeting single mothers).
 - ii. Some offenders deliberately target churches.

Keeping Predators Away from Your Church

1. Creating a Child Protection Policy (CPP).
 - a) No policy is a recipe for disaster.
 - i. Informal help is no help at all (small churches).
 - ii. CPP helps you legally if something goes wrong.
 - b) Protective Rules
 - i. Increase accountability, decrease isolation.
 - ii. Examples: Two adult rule, females taking kids to the bathroom, etc.
2. Membership
 - a) Keeping a small front door (deny easy access)
 - i. Membership class and interview process
 - ii. 6 month policy
 - iii. Downside (less volunteers), Upside (You *know* your volunteers better)
3. Training and Screening
 - a) Equip your members.
 - b) Application process that requires references, screening information, and asks sensitive questions

4. Verification
 - a) You can't detect lying
 - b) Screening services
 - i. Don't assume you "know" them.
 - ii. Examples of screening services
5. Building Design
 - a) Structural design:
 - i. Is there a structural division that keeps adults away from kids?
 - ii. Visual examples of different designs
6. Conclusion: The Witness of Your Church / The God of All Grace and Wisdom!
 - a) Will they know your church as a gospel-centered church or the place where offenders come?
 - b) Where does our hope finally come from?