

# **Shepherding: Abuse and Reporting**

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# Reality

- Sexual Assault is any type of sexual behavior or contact where consent is not freely given or obtained and is accomplished through force, intimidation, violence, coercion, manipulation, threat, deception, or abuse of authority”-Holcomb
- According to the most recent statistics, every two minutes someone in the United States is sexually assaulted
- 17% (1 in 6) of males and 25% (1 in 4) of females are or will be victims of sexual assault in their lifetime
- 1 in 6 women in the US has been raped at some time in her life
- According to the Bureau of Justice, women 16-19 years of age have the highest rate of sexual victimization of any age group.
- 80% of victims are assaulted by a known acquaintance
- 50–90% of sexual assault cases go unreported
- Police statistics show that the number of falsely reported sexual assaults is less than that of other crimes — only two percent.

# Perspective

- It's an honor to be trusted with such a ministry.
- The power of presence.
- They don't need us to be overly emotional or to freakout.
- They need us to be sympathetic and to listen.
- The importance of being believed. HUGE first step in healing.
- Redemptive moment
- Justice and grace are not enemies

# What Not To Say

- I know how you feel.
- I understand.
- You're lucky that \_\_\_\_\_ didn't happen.
- It'll take some time, but you'll get over it.
- Why don't you tell me more details about what happened.
- Don't worry; it's going to be all right.
- Try to be strong.
- Out of tragedies good things can happen.
- Time heals all wounds.
- It was God's will.
- The Bible says to forgive.
- The Bible says to love your enemies.
- Calm down and try to relax.
- You should get on with your life.

# What Not To Say

- Why did you go there?
- Were you drinking?
- Were you flirting with him?
- Are you sure that's what happened?

# What To Say

- I'm sorry this happened to you.
- I believe you.
- Thank you for telling me.
- How can I help?
- I'm glad you're talking with me.
- I'm glad you're safe now. (if they are removed from the threat)
- It wasn't your fault.
- Your reaction is not an uncommon response.
- It's understandable you feel that way.
- You're not going crazy; there are normal reactions following an assault.
- Things may not ever be the same, but they can get better.

# Mandatory Reporting

- Different state to state. Important to know what your state requires.
- NC: “Any person 18 years of age or older who knows or should have reasonably known that a juvenile has been or is the victim of a violent offense, sexual offense, or misdemeanor child abuse under G.S. 14-318.2 shall immediately report the case of that juvenile to the appropriate local law enforcement agency in the county where the juvenile resides or is found.”

# Reporting

- Reports should be made to the law enforcement agency in the county where the juvenile resides or is found.
- Local Social Services
- Local Sheriff's Office or Police Department
- Keep a record of the report for you and the church.

# **On-going Shepherding**

- Family
- Counseling
- Don't protect the wolf!!

# On-going Shepherding

- Stay Engaged
- Discipleship
  - Time Doesn't Heal All Wounds BUT Jesus Can!
  - Justice
  - Identity In Christ
  - Biblical Forgiveness

# Resources

- RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)
- GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment) <https://www.netgrace.org/>
- Caring for Survivors of Sexual Abuse -Tchividjian, Basyle
- Rid of My Disgrace - Justin Holcomb <https://justinholcomb.com/>
- Ministry Safe provides a complete Child Safety System designed to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse. <https://ministrysafe.com/>

