

## 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?