

❖ Who Abuses?

- Family members and close friends
- Pedophiles
- Other children

❖ Who Is Abused?

- Girls
- Boys

❖ How Does It Happen?

- Bribes and enticement
- Seduction
- Intimidation, threats, force

❖ What Acts Are Included?

- Sexual assault
- Molestation
- Sexual exploitation
- No such thing as an act that's "not too bad."

❖ Types of Harm

- Betrayal of trust
- Threats to security
- Lies, manipulation and blame
- Fear and powerlessness
- Misuse of God's name or prayer

❖ Problem Behaviors in Children Who Have Been Abused

- Misbehavior
- Sexually suggestive behavior
- Return to younger behaviors

- Sleep problems
- School problems
- Refusal to participate at school
- Physical complaints
- Efforts to be “too good”
- Statements about selves or genitals being defective
- Revictimization
- ❖ How To Encourage Disclosure of Abuse
  - Open-ended, nondirective questions
  - Keep asking
  - Relaxed, matter of fact attitude
  - Start with sex ed
  - Give her something to do with her hands
- ❖ If She Discloses
  - Reassure
  - Don’t minimize
  - Follow through
  - Emphasize that it wasn’t her fault
- ❖ About CPS
  - Reporting is the law
  - Reporting ensures that the child is protected
  - Reporting can cause problems
- ❖ Helping Victims
  - Regular meetings
  - Toys or art
  - Bring the subject up—this tells her it’s OK to talk about it
  - Counseling doesn’t have to last a long time

- ❖ Counsel non-offending parents as well as children
  - Teach them how to help their child
  - Many of the misperceptions you correct in the child will also need to be corrected in the parents!
- ❖ How To Talk About It
  - *Before You Were Born* by Carolyn Nystrom for sex ed
  - Correct misunderstandings about what sex is for and why we protect it
- ❖ Guilt
  - Talk about the gospel before you talk about guilt
  - Start with sins that are unrelated to the abuse
  - Then deal with the abuse
    - She probably feels guilt for things that aren't her fault
    - She may also have guilt for things she needs to repent for. Even victims can sin (lying, disobeying parents in the context of the abuse).
- ❖ Arousal
  - A normal response, but disturbing for everyone involved
  - Masturbation
  - Is she still pure? Yes.
- ❖ Feeling Overwhelmed?