

INTRODUCTION

In a world full of broken relationships, you don't have to travel far or meet many people before encountering those deeply affected by insecurity, loss and trauma. We have a crafty enemy who is out to destroy our security, our relationships, and ultimately our identity. Thankfully we have a loving heavenly father who constantly pursues His kids, grafting each of us into His family.

Caring for at-risk kids is not a cause to support but our calling as the church. When we do this well, lives are transformed and those watching will see Jesus.

This type of work cannot be accomplished from a distance. It requires us to step into the lives of those who are hurting, putting ourselves in their place and shouldering just some of the emotional burdens they carry. It means being vulnerable enough to open your heart and maybe even your home to those who desperately need a tangible example of love, security and acceptance. It means looking a lot like Jesus when he stepped into our mess.

I can say from personal experience that the cost is high and the heartache is real but the rewards far exceed the sacrifices. On this path, you find significance, not in yourself or your own abilities, but in laying your life down for others. God is inviting each one of us to understand HIm more fully by embracing a small piece of his heart for those he deeply cares about: the ones who are lost and alone.

The issue of broken families and vulnerable children is complex and widespread but when God's people (His church) rise up, He is able to bind up the broken-hearted and set the lonely in families, both physically and spiritually. Each one of us has a unique calling. This guide is designed to encourage a process of self discovery as we encounter God's design for families and how the church is positioned to respond. He's calling each one of us to play a role in caring for the least of these...let's learn how together.

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Defending the Cause Regional Alliance Director Adoptive Mom / Adopted Daughter of the King

Defending the Cause Regional Alliance is a network of organizations in the Greater Sacramento Area working together to protect kids and strengthen families.





Church Ministry COACHING

This curriculum is designed to help church leaders and ministry teams understand the current issues kids and families in our culture face, how the church is perfectly positioned to make an impact and best practices for protecting kids and strengthening families.

These 5 training modules are taught over 2 90-minute coaching sessions.



Enlighten

Learn about the needs of kids & families along with clear ways the church can respond



Empower

Recruit, train & empower healthy church ministry leadership teams and define ministry goals



Engage

Create a culture that supports kids & families by engaging all ministries and members



Equip

Train individuals, families & teams to meet needs in an informed and caring way



Encourage

Provide support, resources & ongoing connection for families, volunteers & leaders

Training Topics:

- God's Design for Family
- The Enemy's Attack
- The Church's Response

Training Topics:

- Gather the Interested & Involved
- Determine your Church's Ministry Vision, Mission and Goals
- Develop a Healthy Leadership Team

Training Topics:

- Create a Culture of Service
- Connect with Existing Church Ministries
- Invite the Entire Church to Participate
 - Consistent Messaging
 - Clear Points of Access
 - Something for Everyone

Training Topics:

- Identity and Motivation
- Pursuing your Purpose
- Equipping the Called
- Building Strategic Partnerships

Training Topics:

- Living a Life of Justice
- Providing Support & Encouragement
- Celebrating Success