

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Each of us plays a vital role as we work together to make our church and community a safer place for children.



*Spend time each day reading God's Word, praying and taking a step.*

**Monday.** "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me..."—Jesus (Mark 9)

**Pray** for teachers and coaches, and all who work with children and young people, that they may look after them with the watchful eye of the shepherd.

**Action:** Decide to be present in the moment--lay down the phone...turn off the tv...and talk.

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**Tuesday:** He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3

**Pray** for those who have suffered abuse, that they may experience God's profound love for them and God's healing powers, that they may have the courage to tell their story and reach for healing.

**Action:** Pay attention. People who abuse children look and act like everyone else and are often thought to be trustworthy by the community.

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Wednesday: Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. Acts 20:28

**Pray** for our church leaders, and all entrusted with the care of children and teens, that they may truly fill the role of shepherd and protect all in their flock.

**Action:** When overseeing your child's activities, take notice of anything that makes you uncomfortable and be brave enough to speak up.

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Thursday: Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. Philippians 4:6

**Pray** for parents, that they may have the strength and the courage to lead their children well.

**Action:** Make sure your child understands that no matter what has happened, they can share with you without fear of being blamed.

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Friday: Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress... James 1:27

**Pray** for Christian City and all those who provide help for the abused, that they may act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministry.

**Action:** Talk openly with your child about boundaries and what to do when those boundaries are crossed.



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