

WHAT IS GROOMING?

CARING WELL CONNECTIONS

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AGENDA

- What is it?
- Stats
- Stages of Grooming
- Types of Grooming
- How to respond





GROOMING

Grooming is a non-violent technique used by sexual predators to manipulate and abuse their victims, often children.

The term originated in the 1980s during a series of investigations into sex crimes against US children. Investigations uncovered patterns of behavior and specific techniques used by predators to gain access to and the compliance of victims.

- o Grooming does not just happen to minors or for sexual abuse.

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2 KEY TACTICS

Place themselves in positions of trust

Teachers, Coaches, Caregivers,

Situations where Child/Adult interactions are expected and normal

Mimic normative caring adult-child/teen/vulnerable interactions

Move towards isolation

Take time to develop the relationship

Invest time

Learn about their victim's vulnerabilities

Find out what their interests and likes are

Slowly introduce physical and sexual conduct

Matthew 10:16 "See, I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves."

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- ❑ National Sexual Violence Resource states that **1 in 5 girls** and **1 in 6 boys** will be sexually abused by age 18.
- ❑ "Stranger danger" mentality implied that child molesters were creepy old men lurking around corners.
- ❑ However, recent studies have proved that **90% of sexual abuse victims knew their abuser.**
- ❑ Of 3,952 registered sex offenders **93% describe themselves as religious**, according to a study conducted by CT.
- ❑ Sex offenders **seek out churches with the weakest child protection policies.**

THE STATS

20XX

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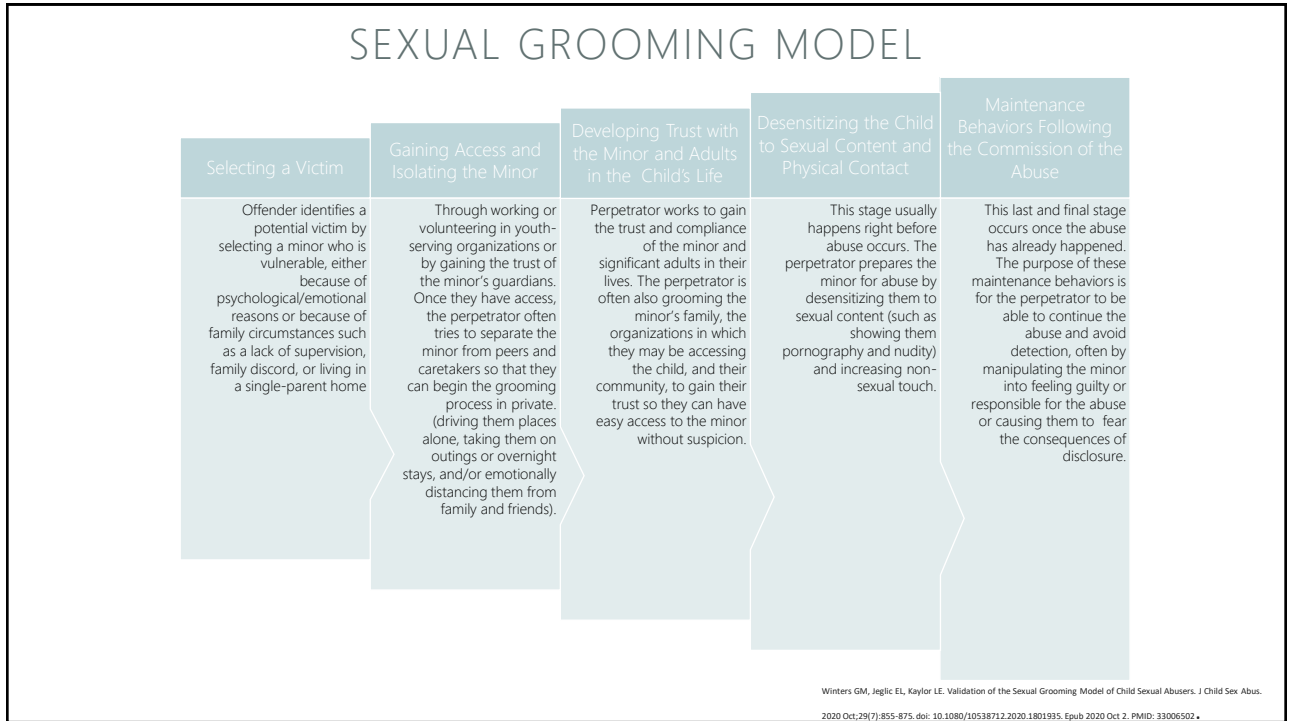
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STARTLING REALITIES

- 70% of child sexual offenders have between **1 and 9 victims**,
- 20% have **10 to 40 victims**.¹
- Offenders Confessing Abuse can be an act of grooming!
 - Who do they have sorrow for self or victim?
 - Sex offenders groom to "define reality" for victims and their community so that they agree with the abuser's distorted thoughts, beliefs, and values. Their purpose is to control others' perspectives.
- Abuse is about power and control. And **sexual abuse is no different**. It is *always* primarily about power and control.
 - In fact, abusers groom their victims and communities to establish and enforce control
- "The most chilling aspect of this behavior is its invisibility." Dr. Salter

1 Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R., Chaffin, M. (2009) Juveniles who commit sex offenses against minors. Juvenile Justice Bulletin, OJJDP, Office of Justice Programs

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- Minor is compliant/trusting of adults.
- Minor lacks confidence/has low self-esteem.
- Minor is lonely/isolated.
- Minor is troubled.
- Minor is needy.
- Minor feels unwanted/unloved.
- Minors are not close to their parents, and parents are not resources for them.
- Minor lives with a single mother/needs a "father figure."
- Minor has a lack of supervision.

SELECTING THE VICTIM

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. Is 1:17
James 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. James 1:27

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- Involved in youth-serving organizations (i.e., school, youth groups, scouts, sports).
- Manipulates the family to gain access to the child.
- Engages in activities alone with child; excludes adults.
- Takes minor for overnight stays/outings.
- Separates minor from peers and family.

GAINING ACCESS AND ISOLATING THE CHILD

And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. 2 Cor 11: 12-15
Satan isolated Eve.

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- Appears charming/likable.
- Has insider status/good reputation/"pillar of the community."
- Is affectionate/loving with minor.
- Gives the minor attention.
- Exhibits favoritism/"special relationship" with minor.
- Gives minor compliments.
- Spends time with minor
- Communicating often (texting, phone calls, e-mails).
- Engages in childlike activities (stories, games, sports, music).
- Gives minor rewards/privileges (gifts, toys, treats, money, trips).
- Provides minor with drugs or alcohol.

DEVELOPING TRUST

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies John 8:24

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- Asks questions about minor's sexual experience/relationships.
- Talks about sexual things they themselves have done.
- Uses inappropriate sexual language/dirty jokes.
- Teaches minor sexual education.
- Use of accidental touching/distraction while touching.
- Watches the minor undressing.
- Exposes their own naked body to the minor (changing/showering).
- Shows the minor pornography magazines/videos/images.
- Seemingly innocent/non-sexual contact (tickling/hugging/sitting on lap).
- Desensitizes minor to touch/increasing sexual touching.

DESENSITIZATION TO SEXUAL CONTENT AND PHYSICAL TOUCH

For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil,
but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword.
Her feet go down to death;
her steps follow the path to Sheol. Pv 5 3-5

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- Tells minor not to tell anyone what happened.
- Encourages secrets and secret-keeping.
- Tells the minor "I love you" "You're special."
- Gives the minor rewards or bribes not to tell/says by not telling they will avoid punishment.
- Persuade the minor the sexual abuse was acceptable/normal behavior.
- Provide the minor with misstated moral standards regarding touch.
- Make the minor feel responsible for the abuse.
- Threaten the minor with abandonment/rejection/family breaking up if they tell.

MAINTENANCE BEHAVIORS

The Bible describes its devastating effects and sinister goals: flattery "works ruin" (Proverbs 26:28), designs harm for one's neighbor (Proverbs 29:5), manipulates for selfish gain (1 Thessalonians 2:5-6), and takes advantage of the naïve (Romans 16:18).

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CONVERTING THESE CONCEPTS FOR CHILDREN

Some People Use Tricks

- Pretend to be your friend to build trust
- They wear you down
- Confusing touch- ask us
- Invite you to see 'bad' things
- Encourage you to break rules
- Safe adults do not ask children for help
- Cause you to doubt people you trust
- Tell you to keep secrets-Ask you not to tell others
- Hide that they are texting/emailing/calling you
- Blame you for their behavior
- Confuse you
- Make you feel bad when you say know to things- Sulky
- Healthy adults are not *intimate friends* with and do not confide in children/teens



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RAPE OF TAMAR

Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, loved her. ²And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her. ³But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a **very crafty man**. ⁴And he said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." ⁵Jonadab said to him, "**Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill**. And when your father comes to see you, **say to him, 'Let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'**" ⁶So Amnon lay down and **pretended to be ill**. And when the king came to see him, **Amnon said to the king, 'Please let my sister Tamar come** and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand.'" ⁷Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare food for him." ⁸So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, where he was lying down. And she took dough and kneaded it and made cakes in his sight and baked the cakes. ⁹And she took the pan and emptied it out before him, but **he refused to eat**. And Amnon said, "**Send out everyone from me.**" So **everyone went out** from him. ¹⁰Then Amnon said to Tamar, "**Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand.**" And Tamar took the cakes she had made and brought them into the chamber to Amnon **her brother**. ¹¹But when she brought them near him to eat, **he took hold of her and said to her, 'Come, lie with me, my sister.'** ¹²She answered him, "**No, my brother, do not violate me**, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing. ¹³As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you." ¹⁴**But he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her.** ¹⁵Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Get up! Go!" ¹⁶But she said to him, "No, my brother, for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me." But he would not listen to her. ¹⁷He called the young man who served him and said, "Put this woman out of my presence and bolt the door after her." ¹⁸Now she was wearing a long robe with sleeves, for thus were the virgin daughters of the king dressed. So his servant **put her out and bolted the door after her**. ¹⁹And **Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long robe that she wore. And she laid her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went.** ²⁰And her brother Absalom said to her, "**Has Amnon your brother been with you? Now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this to heart.**" So Tamar lived, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house.

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VICTIM BLAMING

Victim blaming occurs when the victim of a crime or any wrongful act is held entirely or partially responsible for the harm that befell them.

Why do we do this?

- To distance ourselves from an unpleasant occurrence, and this gives a false sense that this could not happen to us.
- What we believe about sin and human nature. Being a sinner doesn't mean that the victim sinned in a way that makes them directly responsible for the abuse.
- What we believe about suffering and the nature of God. If I am good, I receive blessings- if bad then cursing.
- Don't understand abuse- think it is like our normal relationships. We think that people have influence and are considered. Or even think it is safe to leave or enforce a no.

Victim-blaming reinforces what the abuser has been saying all along; that it is the victim's fault that this is happening.

• It is NOT the victim's fault or responsibility to fix the situation; it is the abuser's responsibility and ours as we protect the vulnerable.

•What are ways that we unknowingly blame victims?

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WHY CHILDREN DO NOT DISCLOSE ABUSE

- 1.'Keep it a Secret'
- 2.Fear and Threats
- 3.'I do not know who or how to tell'
- 4.Made to Feel Responsible
- 5.Groomed
- 6.'No one will believe you'
- 7.Dissociation
- 8.Punishment
- 9.Fear
10. Love

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WARNING SIGNS OF ONLINE GROOMING

- Spend a lot of time on their online devices.
- Not want to talk about what they are doing online.
- Close the door of their room when online.
- Have new gifts and do not want to talk about where they got them from.
- Change the way they behave and dress.
- Start to use inappropriate language.
- Excessively text someone and lie about who it is.
- Quickly close windows, tabs, screens

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CHILDREN MAY

- The child may have unexplained bruises or sexual injuries.
- The child may show signs of fear around a specific person.
- Children may regress in development when being abused.
- The child's academic performance may gradually decline as the abuse increases.
- The child's behavior may change. Children may become quieter and more anxious when exposed to grooming and other forms of abuse.
- Children may make sexual comments, displaying sexual knowledge beyond what is appropriate for their age.

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HOW TO RESPOND

- Calm- goal is disclosure- not in trouble for telling the truth
- Focus on the behavior instead of the person.
- Pay attention to the target: do they appear to be uncomfortable or afraid?
- If suspected, contact local authorities and seek medical attention.
- In the case of a child, take action to stop further contact between the individual and the child.

- Church should have a protocol where to express concerns
- IF you suspect abuse you report it Child Protection, Child Advocacy, Police –
- Do not seek permission to report abuse; you can ask for help.

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WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE IT? SUSPECT IT?

If you believe that your child is being groomed

Document- check devices

Report it

Immediately take steps to eliminate or at least limit your child's interaction with the person.

Avoid letting the person do favors for your family.

Ask your child about their relationship and maintain open conversation with your child,

Remember: the predator may have told your child that you are not a trustworthy person.

Report Concerns

If you suspect a friend or loved one is the subject of grooming (18 and under or vulnerable person report)

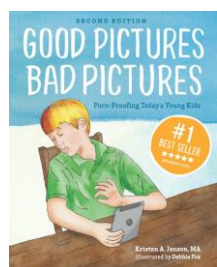
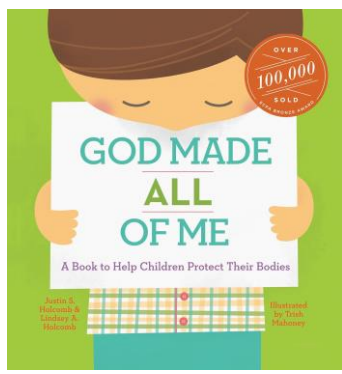
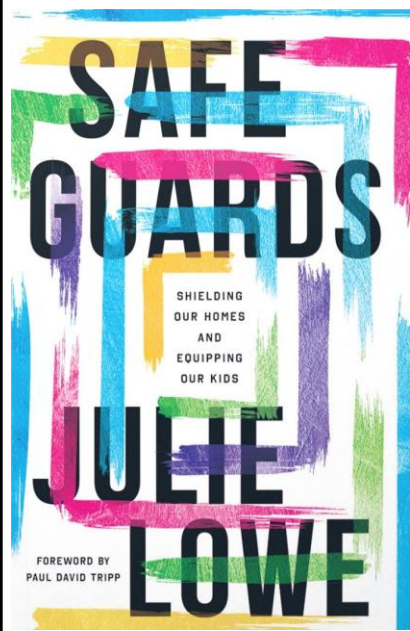
Keep open lines of communication with them

Help them make connections

- Are they asking for access to monetary resources
- Do they let you build and nurture other relationships?
- Pressure you to do things you do not want to?
- Open or secretive relationship?
- Are you afraid to disappoint them?

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RESOURCES



To protect our children we must talk about uncomfortable things (bodies, touch, sex, pics, porn)

And educate them on healthy relationships and deceptive people.

Be present, monitor tech and check in.