

**Child Help International's**

# Standards for Orphan Care Ministry

*Adapted from Rock-Solid Kids by Larry Fowler,  
printed by Gospel Light Publishing.*

# **Standard 1:**

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## ***Ministering to children is our highest priority.***

### **Defined:**

Children are seen through a biblical lens, as people with an eternal soul, and as such, ministering to them is of utmost importance.

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

**Mark 10:14**

### **Why it's Important:**

- We must put children in the same position Jesus does, not the world.
- Jesus sees children as present people in need of His Kingdom and His blessing. He sees them as people who need to be put in a place of priority.
- If we are to effectively minister in a way that pleases Jesus, we must make true ministry to children our priority.

## **Living Up to the Standard**

### **The Church:**

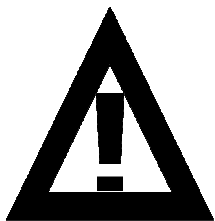
- Ministry to the children is equal to all their ministries.
- Ministry to children is visible throughout the church's programs.
- Church resources are used to minister to children.

### **The Ministry Leaders:**

- They value the ministry to children above all other work their ministry does.
- They constantly evaluate and improve how the workers and church can better minister to the children.

### **The Home:**

- Home life demonstrates the conviction that the most important need of the children is their spiritual training.
- Children are loved and valued as Jesus loves and values them.



### **A Word of Caution:**

- We cannot overlook ministry to teenagers. With teens, we must emphasize discipleship and a faithful walk with Christ.
- We must not think that ministering to children is simply teaching them spiritual things or that it is only for Sundays and church.

# **Standard 2:**

## ***The responsibility for orphan care first belongs to the Church.***

### **Defined:**

The Church is commanded to care for orphans and widows in their distress. It is the duty of the church to obey this command faithfully.

*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

**James 1:27**

### **Why it's Important:**

- Orphan Care, widow care, and holy living are the only ingredients for a church to have Pure Religion.
- God repeatedly commands His people to care for the orphaned.

## **Living Up to the Standard**

### **The Church:**

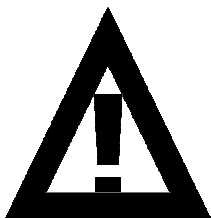
- Church prayers and teachings reflect their commitment to orphan and widow care ministry.
- Church resources and labor are generously used for the ministry to orphans and widows.

### **The Ministry Leaders:**

- Leaders for the orphan care ministry are committed members of the partner church or churches.

### **The Home:**

- Workers and volunteers are found among the partner church or churches membership.
- The church treats the home as an integral part of the church's ministry.

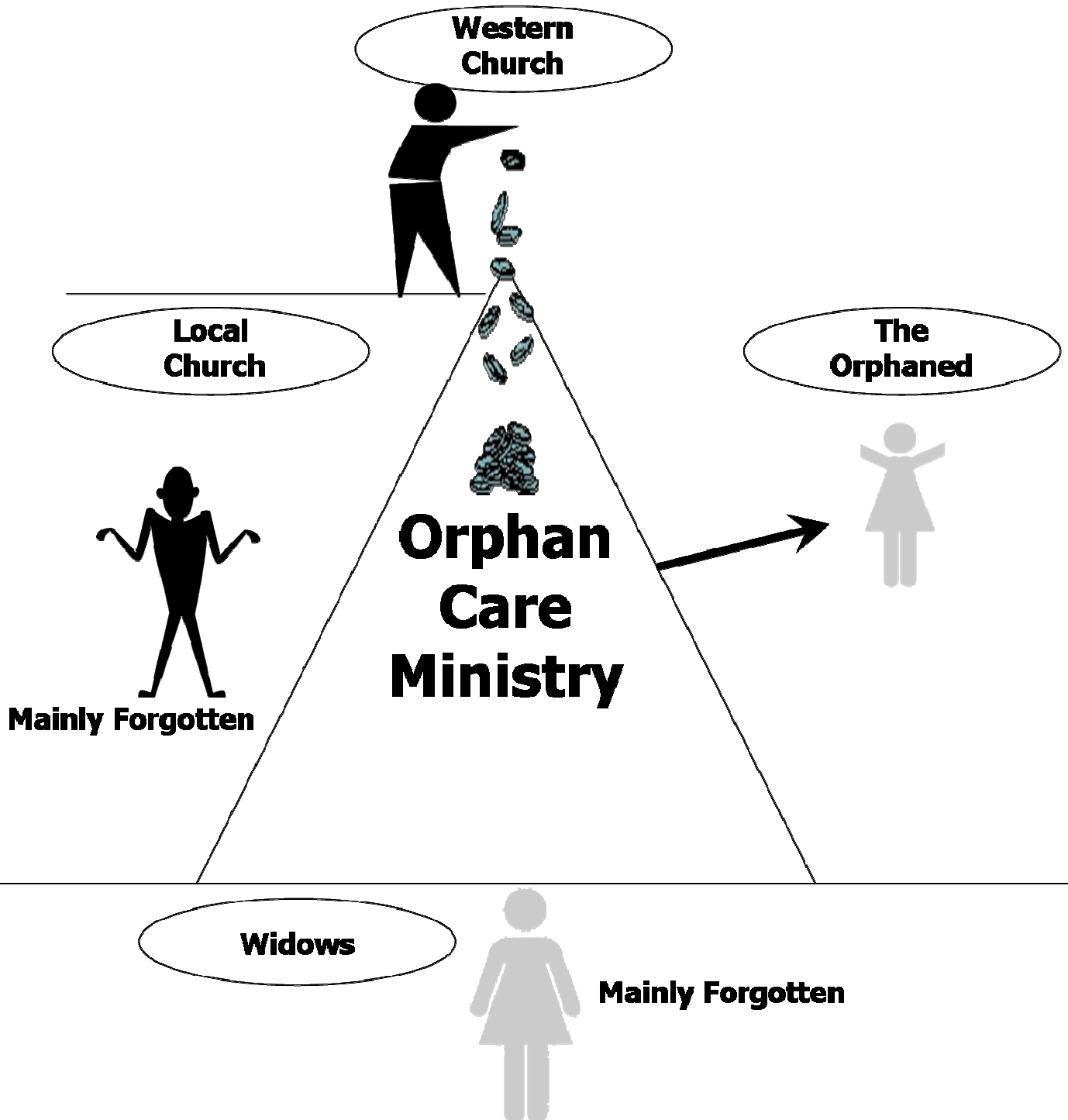


### **A Word of Caution:**

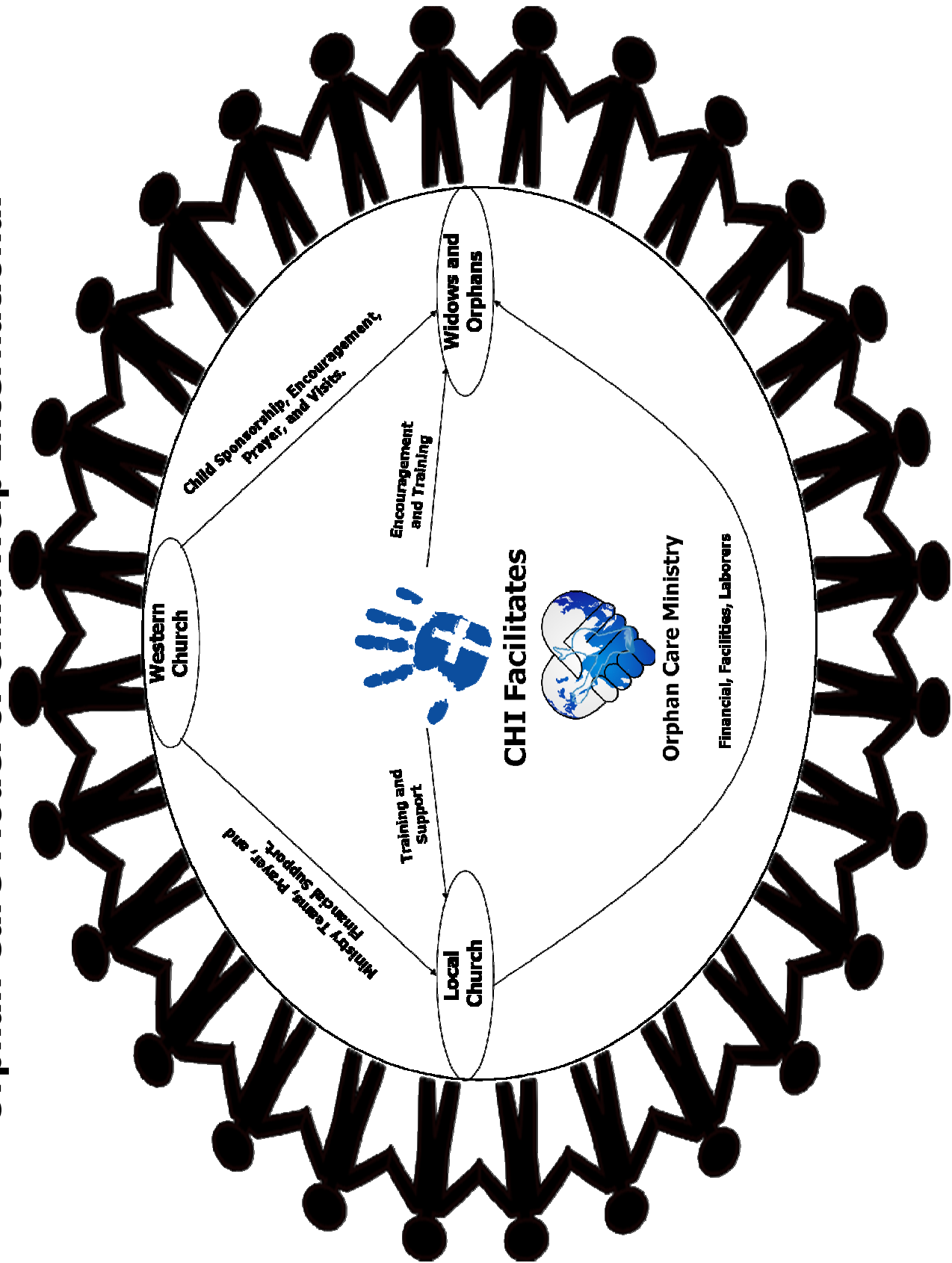
Don't take on too much! Overstretching your home with too many children can have harmful results!:

- It overstretches your budget– you won't have enough money to properly minister to the children!
- It makes you an institution and not a home!
- Makes your ministry less effective.

# The Common Orphan Care Model



# Orphan Care Model of Child Help International



# Standard 3:

## ***Scripture is the foundation of the ministry and ALL teachings.***

### **Defined:**

God's Word defines what we do, how we do it, and why we do it. Beyond that, it's wisdom forms the basis and content of our teaching.

### **Why it's Important:**

- It's God's Word! In following it's precepts we honor our Creator and Lord.
- Without Scriptural teaching children will lack faith, wisdom, forgiveness, and eternal life. We don't want to be guilty of depriving these children of those great blessings.

*He said to them, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you—they are your life..."*

**Deuteronomy 32:46-47**

## **Living Up to the Standard**

### **The Church:**

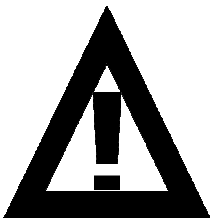
- The priority of God's Word is evident in the worship, teaching, and lives of it's members.
- Applies the Biblical truths and mandates of orphan care, child evangelism, and discipleship in it's work and ministry.

### **The Ministry Leaders:**

- Leaders for the orphan care ministry are committed to applying Biblical truth to the children's lives in relevant ways.
- Leaders exemplify a life of obedience to God's Word.

### **The Home:**

- Scripture is cherished and loved by all in the home.
- The priority of God's Word is evident in the lives of all in the home.



### **A Word of Caution:**

Don't make Scripture a dreaded chore. Scriptures that are taught must be relevant to their lives and applicable so that they learn from Scripture and they know how to obey it.

# Standard 4:

## *Spiritual Training is the core lifestyle of the home.*

### **Defined:**

Training the children in spiritual things is not just an activity in the home, it is the purpose and constant focus of the home.

*These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

**Deuteronomy 6:6-9**

### **Why it's Important:**

- This is the model God gave families for spiritual success.
- If we are to be a family that produces kids with Rock-Solid Faith, we must follow God's method for it.

## **Living Up to the Standard**

### **The Church:**

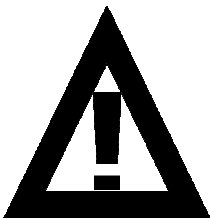
- Keeps the Home's leadership informed about what the children are learning in church.
- Uses a curriculum or teaches in a way that shows they have a long-term plan for Bible training.

### **The Ministry Leaders:**

- Leaders are a constant example of complete love and devotion for God.
- Leaders are focused on the success of the whole child: heart, soul, strength, and mind.

### **The Home:**

- It is a place where children are raised in the pattern of Christ (Luke 2:52).
- Training is formal and informal. It includes constant exposure to God's Word, Prayer, and Scripture Memory.



### **A Word of Caution:**

Spiritual overdose may be possible by constantly "cramming" strict faith into a child. In other words, make sure you have fun, love each other, and not let spiritual training take the form of constant spiritual lectures.

# Standard 5:

## *Every child is safe and loved at all times.*

### **Defined:**

Children know that no matter what they are all equally protected from harm, faithfully cared for, and will experience unconditional love.

*"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."*

**Matthew 18:6**

### **Why it's Important:**

- We don't want to be the cause of a child stumbling and rejecting the faith and a successful future.
- We want to see every child succeed spiritually, physically, emotionally, and cognitively. A safe and loving family is the key to this success.

## **Living Up to the Standard**

### **The Church:**

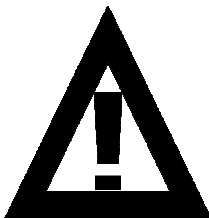
- Orphans are treated with the same love and respect as all other children.
- The church provides a welcoming, safe haven for all children.
- No child is treated better or as a favorite than other children.

### **The Ministry Leaders:**

- Leaders strictly follow CHI's safety and security policy.
- Favorites or special treatment of a certain child is not tolerated.
- Only allows widows, workers, and volunteers who have a clean abuse history to serve.

### **The Home:**

- All children know they are loved.
- Children are clean, clothed, and healthy.
- The home is a safe, clean place.
- Children are never embarrassed, ridiculed, rejected, or abused.
- No one causes a child to stumble in his faith.



### **A Word of Caution:**

Be careful of understanding "safe and loved" to mean being friends with the children and withholding discipline for the sake of the friendship. Discipline provides love and security. Lacking in discipline will cause a child to stumble.



# Standard 6:

## *Children serve God as soon as they are ready.*

### **Defined:**

Children who show spiritual maturation are not only allowed to serve God at church and home, but they are encouraged and equipped for the task.

*"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"*

**John 6:9**

### **Why it's Important:**

- It provides acceptance: children feel like they are a part of the church.
- It provides motivation: children desire to learn more from God's Word.
- It provides permanence: children are less likely to leave the faith.
- It provides strength: their faith is strengthened, as is the family unit.
- It bears fruit: children are often used by God to reach others.

## **Living Up to the Standard**

### **The Church:**

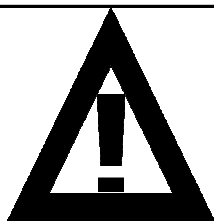
- There are areas and tasks provided by the church where children can serve, such as:
  - \* Church set-up and clean-up.
  - \* Reading or reciting Scripture.
  - \* Being a helper in children's church.

### **The Ministry Leaders:**

- Leaders see the value of serving God, so they encourage and equip the children to serve God well.

### **The Home:**

- Children are encouraged and equipped to serve God in the home:
  - \* Leading Family Time devotion or singing.
  - \* Leading the nightly prayer in their room.
  - \* Leading or helping with the younger children.
  - \* Seeing chores as serving God.



### **A Word of Caution:**

Serving God is a privilege and honor for believers. Those serving must be Born-again Christians who are trained by an adult who can help oversee the service to help a child succeed.

# **Standard 7:**

## ***The Gospel is communicated with clarity and urgency.***

### **Defined:**

Everyone in the home, leadership, and church understand the vital importance of eternal salvation and so the message of salvation is consistently shared in a way that is understandable.

*...from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

**2 Timothy 3:15**

### **Why it's Important:**

- Without a clear teaching of God's Good News, we don't give the opportunity for children to receive the gift of salvation and eternal life.

## **Living Up to the Standard**

### **The Church:**

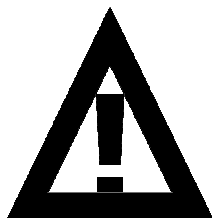
- The church teaches all people the result of sin, the need for a Savior, and the gift of salvation.
- It's teachings are clear and does not confuse children.
- The church does not pressure children to be saved.

### **The Ministry Leaders:**

- Leaders know how to appropriately share the Gospel and lead a child to salvation.
- Leaders never confuse a child or coerce a child to give their life to Christ.

### **The Home:**

- It is a place where the Gospel is shared and lived.
- Children understand that it is through God's love and grace that they have a family and a future.
- Children see and hear the Gospel on family nights and in daily living.



### **A Word of Caution:**

- Confusing communication can lead to false salvation.
- Coercing or pressuring children for a response can lead them to only being saved outwardly.

# Standard 8:

## *Children have regular opportunities to trust in Christ.*

### **Defined:**

In the home and church, children are given opportunities to give their life to Christ and accept His gift of eternal life.

*"In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish."*

**Matthew 18:14**

### **Why it's Important:**

- The Gospel without response is worthless to children. If they are simply told the message, but never how to respond and live by the Gospel, they are still unsaved and unforgiven.
- We don't want to be guilty of not sharing the whole truth and depriving the children of the blessings of living in Christ.

## **Living Up to the Standard**

### **The Church:**

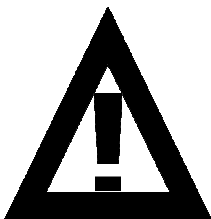
- The teachers and pastors serve to disciple the children from sinner to dedicated disciple.
- There are regular occasions that allow children the to respond to the Gospel in a Biblical, honest way.

### **The Ministry Leaders:**

- Leaders know the biblical, honest response to the Gospel and protect the children from coercion and false teachings.
- Leaders see their role as a spiritual shepherd to the children, guiding them to a lifelong commitment to Christ.

### **The Home:**

- As in the church, the home is a place where children are given regular opportunities to put their trust in Christ and be trained in the Biblical response to the Gospel.



### **A Word of Caution:**

Don't be an inoculator! - Leading children to believe they are saved without ensuring they have internal faith.

Don't be a headhunter! - Pushing for decisions for the sake of numbers and not for the sake of souls.