



"Redeeming the past, providing a joyful present, and offering true hope for the future through the love of Jesus Christ for Children who have been abused"

## PRAYER, PRAISE & WORSHIP , AND INTRODUCTIONS!

WHAT IS "JULIAN OAKS YOUTH MINISTRIES"? *"Pure religion and undefiled is this: to take care of widows and orphans in their distress and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1: 27) "The helpless put their trust in you; you are the defender of orphans" (Psalm 10: 14)*

### I. BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS *"Love one another as I have loved you"* (John 15:12)

The ultimate purpose of these relationships is to introduce kids to Jesus Christ (the best relationship ever!)

Up until now, these children may have had very few positive adult influences in their lives; they may be uncomfortable at first, but don't give up!!!

Relationships take time; be patient! You have all week (and beyond hopefully!)

### II. COUNSELING TECHNIQUES (HOW TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS!)

*"Though I am free from all men, I make myself a servant to all that I might win the more...I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some"*

(1 Corinthians 9: 19 and 22 )

Play with them!

Talk with them (not at them) and be a listener (swift to hear and slow to speak)!

Get to know your camper's family situation – ask questions!

Share your own life experiences (hobbies, your family situation, likes/dislikes)

Don't be "preachy" or talk down to them; have a true conversation!

Pray with them over their problems. Teach them how to pray!

Point them to God, so that their spiritual life isn't dependent on you.

Keep what you know about a foster child confidential.

Most of all, show them the love of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit within you!

### III. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ABUSED CHILD *“He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind. To set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”* ( Luke 4: 18-19)

Physical development (both extremes and plenty in the middle!)

Emotional development (recipients of explosive, unstable, and perverted behavior)

Scholastic development (many have changed schools several times)

Adult relationships (as mentioned before, very few good influences in their short lives)

Peer relationships (make friends, leave friends, make friends, leave friends.....)

Profile of typical abuse (an argument to never legalize drugs!!)

*(Note: These are obviously not always the case, but these are things to be aware of)*

### IV. WHAT ARE A CAMP COUNSELOR’S RESPONSIBILITIES? *“You will guide me with your counsel”* (Psalm 73: 24) / *“With many counselors, there is safety”* (Proverbs 11: 14)

Come prepared spiritually, physically, and mentally (we need you to be “all in”)

Enjoy camp and your campers (if it’s not fun, who wants it?)

Participate and encourage your camper to do the same!

Die to self – This is a servant ministry and it takes a servant attitude

Work on building relationships (whole section on this!)

Supervise at all times (you’re the adult here, so act like one!)

Care for your camper’s personal needs (what better way to show you care?!)

Do everything with the camper, but not necessarily for them (help them learn something new!)

Lead Bible Studies

Help them memorize scripture

One-on-one time

Be an example and role model

**V. SHARING THE GOSPEL (WHAT AN EXCITING PRIVILEGE!!!)** *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation for those who believe ..” (Romans 1: 16)*

*“You are Christ’s ambassador as though God were making His appeal through you” (II Corinthians 5: 20)*

Introduce them to a relationship with Christ (not into a “religion”).

Get to know them spiritually (perhaps they have Christian foster parents!)

When you talk about what the Bible says, show them!

Be gentle, non-threatening, and encouraging

Keep it simple saint! (KISS) Don’t overwhelm them with doctrine (I Corinthians 2: 22)

Avoid the use of “Christianese” (“redeemed”, “washed in the blood”, “sanctified”, “the world”)

Let the Holy Spirit work

Pray continuously!

Share your own experiences: How do you know God is real (especially in tough situations )

Don’t be discouraged if you don’t see fruit; trust God with it!

**VI. Discipline at Camp** *“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh words stirs up anger” (Proverbs 15: 1)*

Don’t be authoritarian, harsh, or demanding (unless a dangerous situation exists!!)

Physical discipline is not permitted

Remember the three F’s – Firm, Fair, and Friendly

Discipline for instruction, not punishment

View behavior problems as questions, not statements

Look at behavior problems as opportunities to teach and resolve

Refer problems you cannot handle to the Camp Directors

## VII. Safe Touches *“Let your gentleness be known to all men” (Philippians 4: 5)*

\*We believe abused children need and desire physical affection, but we must be cautious as we are dealing with children who have often times been sexually abused.\*

A safe touch is one that wouldn't look bad to someone else

Don't be afraid to tell campers when they are offending you by their touch.

Be careful with sexually experienced campers

Make sure you are always nearby other people if you are alone with a camper

Watch their body language and respond accordingly.

## VIII. MANDATORY REPORTING LAWS *“For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed and hidden that will not be known” (Matthew 10: 26)*

We must report any abuse that a child shares that is not already known.

Never promise “not to tell anyone.”

Assure them that we want to help.

Report any suspected abuse to the Camp Directors.

Listen, Believe, Protect, Affirm, Refer

**IX. FOLLOW-UP** *“For I long to see you that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established; that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me!” (Romans 1: 11-12)*

Always get permission first

Letters (Facebook or old school!)

Visits and Outings

Insurance and seat belts

Exclusively for screened camp counselors (if you want your husband or wife to join in, have them fill out a counselor application as soon as possible even if they can't come as a counselor)

Team up with other approved counselors. Take a group. Never be one-on-one with the opposite sex.

Be on time! Be consistent and reliable. Don't back out of your commitment no matter what!

## **X. PROCESS OF BECOMING A COUNSELOR (RARELY IN THIS ORDER!)**

1. Pray – Is this where God wants me to minister?
2. Application
3. Interview
4. Fingerprinting / Background check
5. Training

## **OTHER WAYS TO BECOME INVOLVED**

**Friends of Orphans Groups** *Monthly meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month 6-8 p.m.*

**Become a Prayer Partner:** *Receive our prayer newsletter and commit to prayer*

**Support Financially**

**Upcoming Workday: Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> !!**