

INITIATIVE FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN HANDBOOK

P E A C E

Initiative for Vulnerable Children

Handbook

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SADDLEBACK CHURCH



P·E·A·C·E

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Welcome



Hi Friends!

It is my desire for your life and your church to be blessed by God as we work together to do the unimaginable.

Together, let's care about what God cares about most: his lost children being found, caring about "the least of these" and growing his church, that is, growing warmer through fellowship, deeper in discipleship, wider through ministry, and all around the world through evangelism. That is what God wants.

At Saddleback Church, we focus our outreach efforts to do the five things that Jesus did during his ministry time on earth, the five things that we call The PEACE Plan. It is our desire to not only do what Jesus did but also to focus on empowering churches around the globe to do the same.

Get ready for God to use ordinary people in your church in extraordinary ways!

I am so glad that you are here on the very front end of this exciting and world-changing adventure.

Pastor Rick Warren

Rick Warren

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Introduction

The Initiative for Vulnerable Children

What is a vulnerable child?

A vulnerable child is any child outside the care and protection of a loving parent. The parents of a vulnerable child may be unable or unwilling to provide a home; they may be deceased, incarcerated, impoverished, or unfit for parenthood due to abuse and neglect. According to UNICEF there are over 150 million vulnerable children worldwide. About 80% have a biological relative who, with help, could provide a home.

Jesus said, "I will not leave you as orphans" (John 14:18, ESV)

Our goal: to restore what God already designed.

Our ministry focus is to restore families and to help them heal their relational trauma through biblical values and the principles of Trust Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI). We do not provide for orphans and vulnerable children in an abnormal way outside the design God created for children. We do not simply try to make them more comfortable while still leaving them as orphans. Instead, we follow a path to restore what God had always intended: every child in a family, every family in a church, and every church reaching out to the community.



Community: One of the purposes of the local church is outreach to the community by providing trauma-informed programs in our education, clinical, judicial, and social sectors.

For I know the plans I have for you,...plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

Church: The church is the hope of the world and the solution to ending the orphan crisis since it finds a family for every child and equips ordinary members to care for each family.

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans (James 1:27, NLT)

Family: Family is the best place for the healthy growth and development of a child. The church can help children remain in their families, reunite with their families, or regain families through adoption.

A father to the fatherless . . . God sets the lonely in families (Psalm 68:5–6a, NIV)

Children: Vulnerable children experience various levels of trauma. God wants every child to believe and feel that they are precious, safe, and heard.

Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me... (Mark 9:37)

Let's find a family for every child and equip the church to care for them!

The Getting-to-Zero Strategy

As a part of the PEACE Plan, we seek to provide a method and structure that any church can be trained to follow.

Examples of Resources Used at Saddleback Church

Part 1: Vision: Find Families and Partners

Our first step is to find families, advocates (volunteers/God's servants), and partners (churches, non-governmental agencies, and government agencies).



FIND A FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD
SEMINAR-IN-A-BOX.
VIDEO-BASED
PLUG-AND-PLAY
ACCURATE INFORMATION
BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Part 2: Train: Equip the Church

The second step is to equip the church, volunteers, non-governmental agencies, and government agencies to mobilize resources to serve vulnerable children and families.



EQUIP THE CHURCH
MINISTRY LAUNCH KIT
LEADER TOOLS
SMALL GROUP STUDY
RESPONSE CARDS

Part 3: Transform: C.A.R.E.

The third step is building a C.A.R.E. Collaborative for families of vulnerable children. The commitments of each C.A.R.E. Collaborative are connection, assistance, resilience, and education, along with community collaboration done through churches, agencies, and government.



SUPPORT FAMILIES
SUPPORT GROUP STARTER KIT
EVIDENCE-BASED SCIENCE
BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES
HEAL TRAUMA
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

PART 1

VISION: FIND FAMILIES AND PARTNERS

Lesson 1.1

Overview: The Biblical Foundation for Caring for Vulnerable Children

Adoption Is the Redemption Story; It Was Planned and Modeled by God

Not everyone needs to adopt vulnerable children, but everyone can do something to honor God's promise to care for vulnerable children.

But you, O God, do see trouble and grief; you consider it to take it in hand. The victim commits himself to you; you are the helper of the fatherless. (Psalm 10:14, NIV)

God sets the lonely in families. (Psalm 68:6a, NIV)

Caring for Vulnerable Children Is a Biblical Expectation of Believers

James 1:27 is not a command or prescription for what we should do. It is a description of what our faith should look like. Care for the vulnerable is a part of the Christian lifestyle.

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, NIV)

See Appendix "51 Verses about Vulnerable Children and Adoption"

Lesson 1.2

God's Heart

God's people need only open their eyes to God's heart for vulnerable children. His desire is to have justice and mercy for them.

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, NIV)

The Two Marks of a Christian Are Public Charity and Private Purity

At one time, we were all spiritual orphans, and God sought us out to save us first. Adoption was planned before the beginning of time. It is what happens when we are saved; we are adopted into God's family.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for **adoption** to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.
(Ephesians 1:3–6, NIV; bold added)*

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son . . . so that we might receive **adoption** as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Father!" (Galatians 4:4–6, ESV; bold added)*

What God Modeled for Us

We have experienced a costly legal process.

For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:3–4, NIV)

We have become God's adopted sons/daughters.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (Romans 8:14–16, NIV)

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. (Hebrews 2:10–11, NIV)

We are co-heirs with Christ

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Romans 8:17, NIV)

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will. (Ephesians 1:10–11, NASB)

We are eternally safe

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. (John 10:28, NIV)

We are precious in God's love.

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. (1 John 3:1, ESV)

We have access to our Father, and he hears our prayers

For through him [Jesus] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. (Ephesians 2:18, NIV)

God didn't leave us orphaned; he brought us into His family.

Jesus said, "I will not leave you as orphans" (John 14:18, NIV)

Lesson 1.3

State of Vulnerable Children and the Human Condition

A vulnerable child is any child outside the care and protection of a loving parent. The parents of a vulnerable child may be unable or unwilling to provide a home. They may be deceased, incarcerated, impoverished, or unfit for parenthood due to abuse and neglect. According to UNICEF, there are over 150 million vulnerable orphans worldwide. About 80% have a biological relative who, with help, could provide a home.

Seven Common Causes of Vulnerable Children

Sickness/Death of Parent, War, Poverty, Abuse, Neglect, Natural Disaster, Trafficking
85% of these vulnerable children will fall victim to human trafficking, homelessness, teen pregnancy, gangs, incarceration, or suicide. We can't ignore this tragic reality.

What Are the Needs of an Orphan, and What Are the Ways that Well-Meaning Christians Have Typically Tried to Address Those Needs?

State of the Orphan	Solutions to Meet Needs
Vulnerable	Institutional Housing
Poor/hungry	Provide Stuff
Lonely	Send Visitors
Illiterate	Provide Education
Sick	Provide Healthcare

For centuries, well-meaning people have tried to care for orphans but have actually hurt them by providing institutionalized care. Why is this hurting them? No government or private agency can mandate or hire the only solution that can heal an orphaned child: a family. We are still trying to figure out ways to achieve results through family-style homes. But children know that family-style homes are not what they genuinely need; they need a mom and/or a dad who can change their status to son or daughter.

This is a big problem, one that we know is near to God's heart:

Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute (Psalm 82:3, NLT).

God wants to give orphans protection, a voice, and relationships.

Lesson 1.4

God Designed Families as the Best Place for Children

Why is family so important for children? Children need permanency.

Orphans only change their status when they become a son or daughter. Everyone wants to belong to a family. Our brains were designed for social connection based on our primary connection to a loving parent.

A father to the fatherless . . . is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families. (Psalm 68:5–6, NIV)

Family Is God's Idea!

God could have left us as obedient subjects, but he chose to become our Father through adoption into his family.

His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:5, NLT).

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son . . . so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Father!" (Galatians 4:4–6, ESV)

Family Is the Foundational Structure for Identity Formation and How We Relate to Others

Without a stable connection modeled by an adult caregiver, children can have trouble forming healthy relationships for the rest of their lives.

They have difficulty with developing a sense of self as a separate, worthwhile person; they also have difficulty with trust, and they learn to expect that relationships involve pain.

The Way We Are Parented Affects the Shape of Our Brain for Our Whole Lives!

What we experience in childhood “turns on” and “turns off” different parts of our brain. Without a healthy social environment, parts of the brain will fail to develop properly. Children need positive experiences, attention, and play to “turn on” the parts that will make them effective in life.

The neglect or abuse children experience in early childhood form lifelong beliefs that shape their ability to form healthy attachment with others well into adulthood.

Lesson 1.5

Trauma and the Brain

Science now provides evidence that without healthy, stable parents and families, proper brain development does not occur. Without stable parental connections, stress hormones go up, comfort hormones go down, and development is harmed.

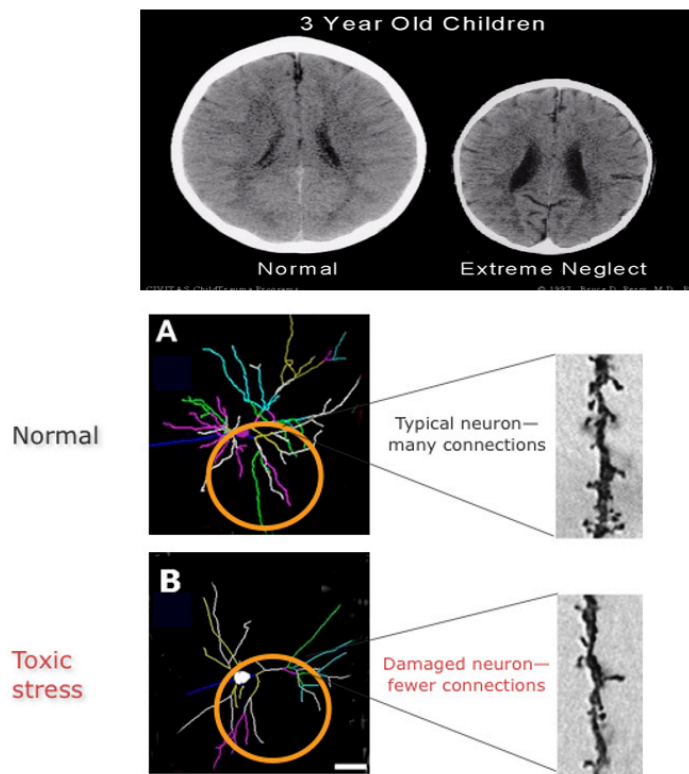
Toxic stress in early years can damage developing brain architecture and lead to learning and behavioral problems and susceptibility to physical and mental illnesses.

Children need a safe and stable family as soon as possible; brain plasticity and the ability to change behavior decrease over time.

What Happens to the Brain When Children Grow Outside of Families?

Science demonstrates that institutionalization of children leads to:

- Cognitive damage or delays: aggressive behavioral problems; inattention/hyperactivity; delays in social/emotional development; autism.
- Physical damage or delays: smaller brain mass and fewer neural pathways; earlier onset of puberty; stunted growth.
- Emotional damage or delays: social and behavioral abnormalities; difficulty interpreting feeling and understanding social cues, including responses to and understanding facial emotion.
- Sensory damage or delays: significant deficiency in sensory perception triggered by sounds, sights, and touch (some crave sensory input to help achieve a regulated state).
- Psychological damage or delays: loss of 1 month of growth for every 3 months in an institution.
- Neurobiological damage or delays: lower levels of brain activity across all regions of the brain (those who are subsequently placed into family care demonstrate an increase in IQ and brain development).



Childhood trauma carries into adulthood. A vulnerable child has suffered a variety of adverse childhood experiences and trauma. Many risk factors can play a role in disrupting healthy early childhood development. Now let's unpack some research that affects all of us as a society.

Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study

The CDC-Kaiser Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, a groundbreaking public health study, discovered that childhood trauma leads to the adult onset of chronic diseases, mental illness, and the adoption of health-risk behavior. Hundreds of research papers based on the ACE Study have been published.

The CDC-Kaiser Permanente ACE Study and subsequent surveys show that most people in the U.S. have at least one ACE; over 12% of people have 4+ ACEs and are at risk of the onset of chronic health problems as adults. Researchers studied:

- Brain science (neurobiology of toxic stress), with reference to how toxic stress caused by ACEs damages the function and structure of children's developing brains.

- Health consequences, with reference to how toxic stress caused by ACEs affects short- and long-term health and can impact every part of the body, leading to autoimmune diseases, such as arthritis, as well as heart disease, breast cancer, lung cancer.
- Historical and generational trauma (epigenetic consequences of toxic stress), with reference to how toxic stress caused by ACEs can alter how our DNA functions and how altered DNA can be passed on from generation to generation.

The 10 ACEs the researchers measured in three categories are:

ABUSE	NEGLECT	HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION
Physical Emotional Sexual	Physical Emotional	Mental Illness Incarcerated Relatives Divorce Witness Domestic Violence Substance Abuse

To learn more about ACEs on Center for Disease Control website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/acestudy/index.html>

Or watch: Dr. Nadine Burke Harris TED Talk at <https://youtu.be/95ovIJ3dsNk>

Adverse Childhood Experiences Quiz

For each question below check a box at the bottom of the page for every yes answer.

Prior to your 18th birthday:

Did a parent or other adult in the household *often* or *very often* swear at you, insult you, put you down, humiliate you, or act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt?

Did a parent or other adult in the household *often* or *very often* push you, grab you, slap you, throw something at you, or hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?

Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you ever touch or fondle you, have you touch his or her body in a sexual way, or attempt or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?

Did you *often* or *very often* feel that no one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special or that your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?

Did you *often* or *very often* feel that you didn't have enough to eat, that you had to wear dirty clothes, that you had no one to protect you, or that your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to the doctor if needed?

Were your parents ever separated or divorced?

Was your mother or stepmother *often* or *very often* pushed, grabbed, or slapped? Was anything *often* or *very often* thrown at her? Was she *sometimes*, *often*, or *very often* kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard? Was she ever repeatedly hit for at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?

Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic or who used street drugs?

Was a household member depressed or mentally ill or did a household member attempt suicide?

Did a household member go to prison?

Check a box below for each question above that you answered yes to.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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How many boxes did you check: ____ This is your ACE Score.

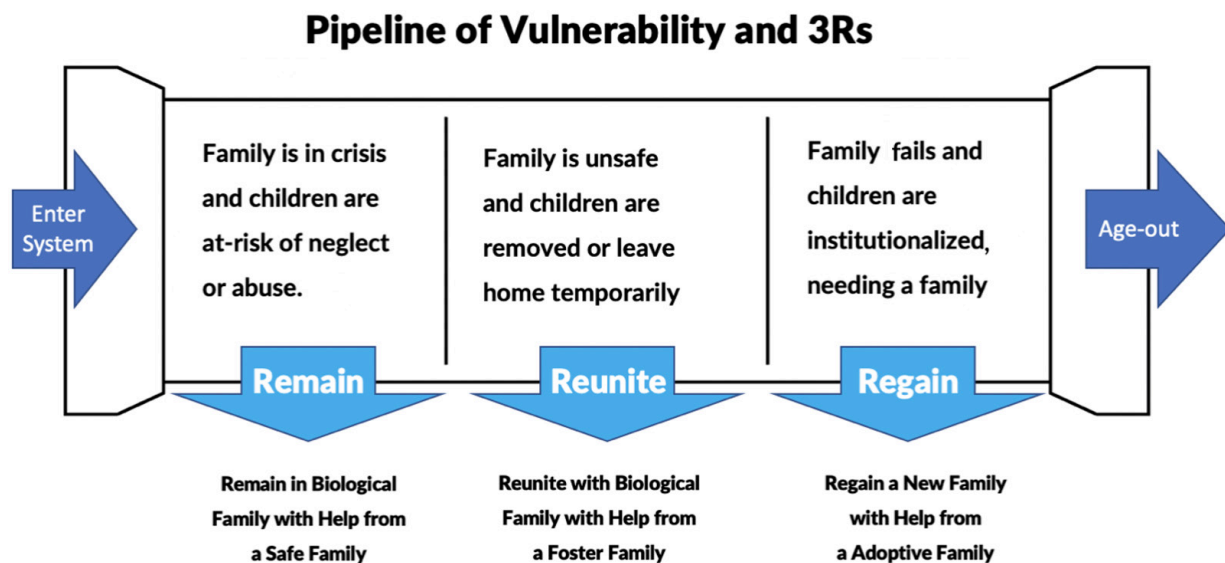
Lesson 1.6

The Child Welfare System: A Pipeline of Vulnerability

How Does the Church Fulfill God's Will and Ensure a Family for Every Child?

We need to choose a region where we can focus our effort. In most countries, the governments have divided up the population into areas for providing social welfare. In the U.S., we break social welfare down by county; in Rwanda, they break social welfare down by districts. Once we know where we want to focus, we can work on establishing a network of churches with the PEACE Plan.

We explain the need for family by the three Rs.



REMAIN in the Family with the Help of a Safe Family.

Our first choice would be to help children remain in their family of origin. Long before children are removed from home, someone sees the vulnerability in the family. Sometimes the child will need temporary care by a family in the church while parents get help or treatment.

REUNITE the Family with the Help of a Foster/Resource Family.

If the birth family is able to make changes and provide a safe and loving home, we seek reunification. If the family is not able to provide a safe and loving home, we seek relative caregivers to reunite the child with.

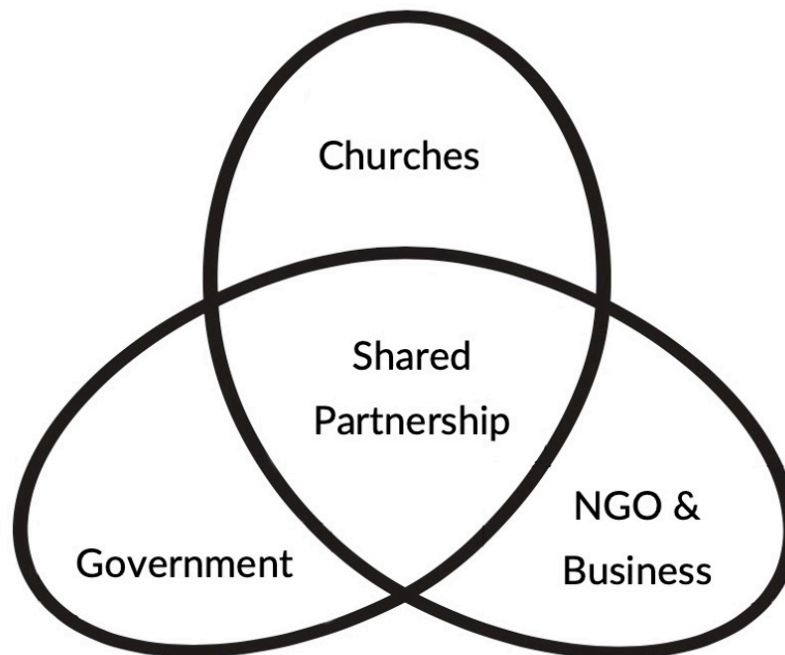
REGAIN a New Family with the Help of an Adoptive Family.

Lastly, if we are unable to do a trace to a relative in the child's history, we need to pursue an adoptive process for a new family. This may be very difficult in some countries, and advocacy may be required to change laws.

Lesson 1.7

Partnerships

To best serve vulnerable children, we need to work across the entire community to maximize the benefit to those children while trying to eliminate or minimize the things that are causing them to be in vulnerable situations. The church has the unique ability to bring a holistic approach to healing at-risk families and children by partnering with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the community at large. Every organization or entity has a set of values and objectives that guide them and ultimately define them. When these values and objectives intersect, partnerships become possible.



Government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are typically bound by policies and procedures that maintain structure and control and provide specific actions and services for vulnerable children and their families. They have the responsibility and authority to protect and represent vulnerable children, but they are not typically in the business of relationships. You cannot legislate compassion or love.

The church, however, is all about relationships, of fostering personal relationships with Jesus Christ, fellowship with Christ's family (all believers), and outreach in the community, whether locally or globally. The Bible teaches all Christians to love one another and to care for orphans and widows. How perfect a plan God has for us!

Partnering with government agencies and non-governmental organizations is critical to serving and caring for the vulnerable children community, and we need to look for areas where our values and thoughts align. Each entity brings something unique to vulnerable children and families. Governments bring authority and funding; NGOs bring infrastructure and funding; and the church brings families, support, and relationships. Through partnership, we can provide vulnerable children the lifelong protection and love that every one of God's children deserves.

PART 2

TRAIN: EQUIP THE CHURCH

Lesson 2.1

Overview: Why the Church?

Churches are the most sustainable source of care and support in their communities. Vulnerable children receive the best care when the local church, in collaboration with other partners, provides the foundation for care. As the distribution center for hope in a community, the local church is positioned to identify needs and support interventions for helping families in need.

The Church Has:

- The largest participation
- The widest distribution
- The most holistic incorporation
- The simplest administration
- The fastest expansion
- The longest continuation
- The strongest authorization
- The highest motivation

A church-initiated solution is the most sustainable and scalable way to address community issues. When the local church claims responsibility for an issue in its community, the issue is valued and owned by passionate members on mission. Since most community issues are best treated through a relational approach, the local church is the most natural fit to extend a helping hand. The local church then enables other public and private partners to come alongside and focus on very specialized needs that are best tackled by professionals or legal processes.

The government can't legislate compassion. Non-governmental organizations (typically nonprofit agencies) can't provide families or community. Only the church is equipped to meet holistic needs and provide wrap-around support. The key is to mobilize the church in ways that strengthen the church through discipleship. Later, we will unpack the mobilization of small groups and how we help through relational strategies.

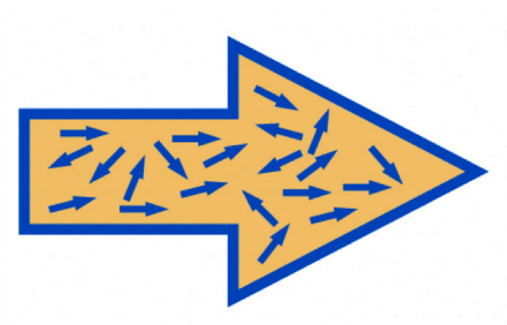
Lesson 2.2

Church-to-Church Strategy

Alignment of strategy is the key to creating a movement. Most churches are involved with outreach activities but are not productive in solving the crisis. If each church uses the same strategy, vernacular, and structure, we will see waves of synergy that create a movement within a community. This allows local government and agencies to work seamlessly in collaboration with multiple churches.

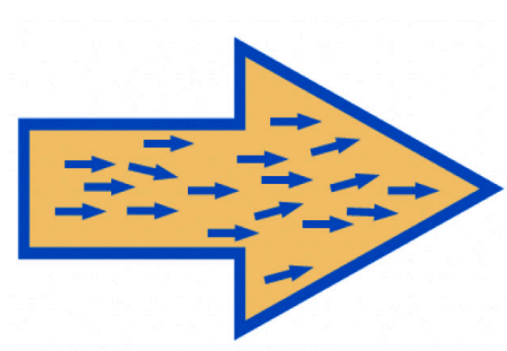
Churches Engaged in Activity

Volunteers from many churches responding to the needs with many strategic influences.



Churches Engaged in a Movement

Volunteers from many churches responding to the needs with one strategic vision.



The collaborative group of churches assembles in a region. The goal is to have churches take ownership of creating a C.A.R.E. Collaborative that helps vulnerable children find hope and support through their families. Churches contribute to the C.A.R.E. Collaborative using the hub model.

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4
LAUNCH VISION	BUILD STRUCTURE	MARKETING EXPANSION	GET TO ZERO!

We have a four-year plan to actually get to zero in a region. It takes time to build the deployable tools and infrastructure needed to equip local churches to implement an effective ministry that finds and supports enough families for every child.

Lesson 2.3

Mobilization (Crawl–Walk–Run)

Mobilizing the church should involve a Crawl–Walk–Run strategy that will provide maximum benefit to vulnerable children, participation from the community, and spiritual growth through discipleship. The Crawl–Walk–Run approach provides a method to overcome the possible fear and apprehension that individuals or groups may feel.



Crawl: Active Willing Participants

The Crawl phase involves inviting individuals or small groups to get involved in various ways. First, they can simply pray for specific initiatives, families, or children. Second, they can give for specific needs or occasions. Their involvement will help to move them from awareness to activation, allowing them to do a good work just once or occasionally.

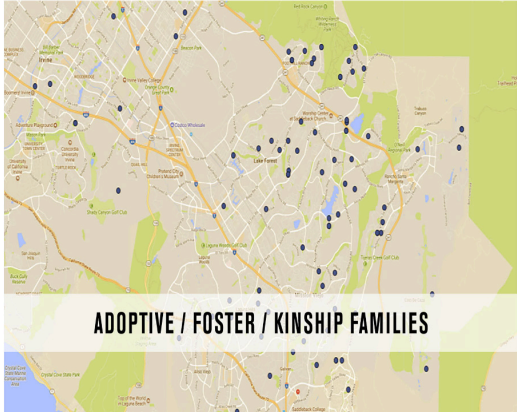
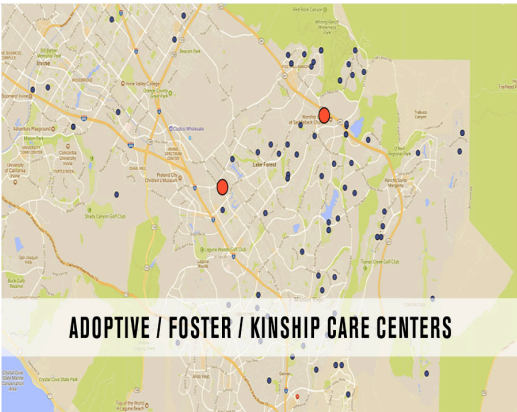

Walk: Committed Trained Ambassadors

The Walk phase moves the individual (or group) from activation to ambassador and increases his or her level of commitment as he or she serves on a semi-regular basis for specific needs or occasions. The service is usually local or nearby and requires some training and preparation time to make an impact for those they serve.

Run: Called Ministry Advocates

The Run phase takes the individual from ambassador to advocacy as the individual (or group) discover their life mission. The individual (or group) is committed to building deep, long-lasting relationships with families and/or the vulnerable children. These individuals may also serve in leadership positions.

Mobilizing the Church through Bible Study Groups

 <p>ADOPTIVE / FOSTER / KINSHIP FAMILIES</p>	<p>This graphic shows actual adoptive, foster, and kinship families who need help in a regional area.</p>
 <p>ADOPTIVE / FOSTER / KINSHIP CARE CENTERS</p>	<p>This graphic shows the only two resource centers offering help to adoptive, foster, and kinship families.</p>
 <p>SMALL GROUPS AVAILABLE FOR CARE</p>	<p>This graphic shows actual Bible study groups who could potentially be mobilized to help the families in their own neighborhoods.</p>

The bulk of service projects and resources should come from mobilizing Bible study groups within our churches. This is a key to promoting health and sustainability among our churches from the top down.

Why Groups?

- The church is already organized into groups.
- It's easier and safer to serve as a group.
- Groups create a spiritual growth environment.
- It is biblical to serve as a group.
- Groups have greater proximity to vulnerable families.

Activating the Groups in Your Church

Once the Initiative for Vulnerable Children and the PEACE Plan Strategy have been established in a local church, the next step is to equip Bible study groups with tools to help without hurting. We will supply kits with service opportunity templates and videos ready to stream to groups. This is a three-week journey to help the group catch the vision for being a sustainable resource for families and ministers for Christ on mission together. Another great tool to assist the formation and training of a group is provided by Promise 686.

Regional Participation

The service projects and resource drives will fuel the collective efforts of our church partnerships. This brings glory back to the Bride of Christ—the church. In this way, we create a sustainable and scalable stream of support that is, most importantly, relational. Our goal is not only to meet physical needs but also to meet the need for relational connections in the community.

Lesson 2.4

Ministry Structure

Vulnerable Children Ministry Vision

That every community can provide the ideal placement for vulnerable children in a family that is supported by a local church and the community to meet needs and heal trauma.

Vulnerable Children Ministry Mission Statement

To find a family for every child and equip the church to care for them.

Vulnerable Children Ministry Goals

- Develop a sustainable model that provides a process for mobilization of the church and expansion of relationships.
- Establish a ministry team that expands and grows the ministry across the globe, teaching other churches and faith-based groups the model of service.
- Create relationships with other churches, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies to support the mission.
- Create standardized processes and resources of best practices.
- Develop strategies to reduce the number of children without loving families to zero.
- Provide every family and child with loving, supportive relationships as needed.

The church will build deep, long-lasting relationships with families, other churches, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies and provide meaningful support to both the family and child. The church is not meant to provide all of the support needs or to replace any other type of support; instead, we are the conduit

that connects the family with the love of the overall support community, showing our love and hope in Jesus Christ.

A simple and concise ministry structure supporting the vision and objectives of the mission is essential to ensure that God's purpose is fulfilled in an efficient manner while maximizing the mission's effectiveness. The structure is meant to give leaders, partners, and volunteers the support needed to help serve the vulnerable children in your region.

The Vulnerable Children Initiative vision is to have all children in a loving family environment. We will do this by forming deep and lasting relationships between the church and foster/adoptive/birth families and by supporting communities in order to increase the success rate of reunifications and adoptions across regions, countries, and the world. Be a model that can be easily duplicated around the world. As stated earlier, the basic model is to (1) Find, (2) Equip, and (3) C.A.R.E. (Support).

The Find/Equip/C.A.R.E. model is the basis for our Initiative for the Vulnerable Children Ministry structure at Saddleback Church, which is pictured below and can be used as a template:

Initiative for Vulnerable Children at a Glance

Find a family for every child and equip the church to care for them.

<i>Vision</i>	<i>Train</i>	<i>Transform</i>
Find Families Volunteers Partnerships	Equip Churches Volunteers Small Groups	C.A.R.E. Connection Assistance Resilience Education
Provide Exploring Seminars	PEACE Skills & Trauma Training	Connection Opportunities Provided by Family Fun Events
Recruit Families to Host Vulnerable Children in Need	TBRI Advocates (Includes TBRI Practitioners)	Assistance with Resources and Services Provided by Family Care Coordinators
Recruit Volunteers to Get Trained on Caring for Vulnerable Families	Outreach Leadership Team	Resilience Provided by Support Groups and Mentors
Establish Partnerships with Agencies Who Can Provide Specialized Services	Care Box Outreach	Education Provided by TBRI Advocates
	Donation Coordinators (CarePotal)	Community Help Is Increased by the TBRI Collaborative
	CARE Collaboratives (Small Groups)	
	Family Fun Day Outreach	

System and Tools to Help Manage and Equip the Interested

Saddleback Church has an elaborate website connected to a backend database. However, since we are working with multiple churches as a part of the PEACE Plan, we also need to use tools that are available for everyone. Much of what we do uses Google apps to manage our relationships with external organizations and people. This is good news because you can use what we have developed for free!

Communication Cards

We hand out a communication card at the gathering to help connect volunteers with service opportunities. Since your church may be a hub church, you may be helping to manage people who attend other churches. The cards all get entered into a Google form that populates a spreadsheet with formulas to sort data that is based on needs.

#ZEROBY2020 VISION

NEW HOPE FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Let's find a family for every child in Orange County by 2020 and equip the church to care for them! #ZEROby2020

WHAT NEXT STEPS INTEREST YOU?

- ☐ Help find families for vulnerable children
- ☐ Help equip our church behind the scenes
- ☐ Help support and care for adoptive and foster families
- ☐ Share the 2020 Vision Locally or Globally
- ☐ Serve at events with childcare team
- ☐ Become a mentor for ages-out youth
- ☐ Serve wherever you need me

ABOUT MY FAMILY: ☐ Biological ☐ Adoptive ☐ Foster ☐ Kinship
☐ Safe Family ☐ In The Process ☐ I was Adopted/Fostered

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ ☐ Mobile ☐ Home ☐ Work

Church/campus that I attend: _____

☐ Please keep me informed of opportunities

☐ Please add me to the Prayer Team.

Example of Communication Card Used at Saddleback

Lesson 2.5

Roles and Responsibilities

Active

1. Donations Coordinators

Connect families with businesses, volunteers, the PEACE Center, and small groups to provide for their material needs as they arise. Coordinators will spend 2–4 hours networking and researching local community resources per week. CarePortal is a great resource for crowd sourcing help but is only available in some areas. Volunteers can sign up to be CarePortal responders who meet needs posted to the platform.

2. Provide CARE Boxes

A CARE Box is a box filled with practical items that a family can use to connect with a new child placed in the home. Items are age appropriate toys, snacks, activities and supplies that meet needs for caregivers and children.

3. Family Fun Day Volunteers

Dream, plan, and execute half-day events that nurture parent-child connections within adoptive, resource, and kinship families. Coordinate by phone, email, and in person with a team of volunteers to plan and hold these events. Coordinators will also get to network with different ministries that enjoy serving the orphan care community.

Ambassadors

4. Childcare Assistants

Support the needs of adoptive, kinship, and foster families by providing trauma-informed childcare at church events. Childcare assistants will learn TBRI to disarm fear and give voice to children, which will align with the techniques that parents are using at home to optimize healing for their child from a hard place. Childcare assistants

will receive additional training from the church childcare ministry to serve with those teams. This role entails a commitment of 2–4 hours either weekly or monthly.

5. Vulnerable Children Initiative Ambassadors

Ambassadors receive all the essential skills trainings of the Initiative for Vulnerable Children. Ambassadors serve in a variety of ways. They are regular volunteers in the outreach locally and/or might go on a short-term mission trip to help equip other churches.

6. Video-Based Training Facilitators

Host seminars and trainings in a no-pressure learning environment to provide information and resources regarding the local fostering/adoption processes as well as other options to increase the number of adoptions. Create presentation and written material that help inform potential families of the benefits of adoption, the adoption processes, guidelines, and requirements. Coordinators will play an important role as liaisons between first-time seminar attendees and the follow-up team. This role entails a 3-hour monthly commitment.

Advocates

7. Leadership Team

Serve regularly in the office or from home as your schedule allows. Provide administration, planning, and coordination to support the ministry. Dream, plan, and make the decisions that determine the direction of the overall outreach.

8. Family Care Coordinators

Provide families with support through the first few years of the adoption process via a relationship between the family and the Care Coordinator. This relationship provides a connection with the church support community. Family Care Coordinators will connect the adoptive families with various resources such as The Connection training, Connection Support Groups, and other services that may help the formation of a loving family unit.

9. Family Crisis/Connection Coaches

Provide mentorship weekly to adoptive, kinship, or resource parents based on personal experience. Enjoy helping families implement trauma-informed care tailored to meet the needs of their child. This role is fulfilled by experienced foster/adoptive parents trained with TBRI.

Lesson 2.6

Resources

Saddleback Church has developed resources for the Initiative for Vulnerable Children and also utilizes resources developed by other like-minded organizations through collaboration with them. Your church or organization is welcome to use any of the Saddleback Church material, and we can assist in connecting you with the owners of other material shown in this manual. Your church or organization may need to develop resources for your specific region or needs to maximize the effectiveness of your ministry. Many of these resources are shown as examples throughout this manual; however, here is a listing:

- Exploring Seminar in a Box: A step-by-step resource for seminars, from preplanning through follow-up
- Ministry Launch Kit: Tools to successfully launch a Vulnerable Children Ministry
- Support Group Starter Kit: Tools to help start support groups for families with vulnerable children
- *The Connection, Where Hearts Meet*: Trust-based relational interventions training
- Family Care Coordinator Training Manual: Complete training for FCCs
- Family Connection Visit Manual: A step-by-step guide for conducting family connection visits
- C.A.R.E. Box Ministry Manual: A resource for establishing and maintaining a C.A.R.E. Box Ministry

Lesson 2.7

Projects and Opportunities to Help Vulnerable Children

Help Find Families for Vulnerable Children

We need help coordinating events, following up with families, and doing research. The most critical need for orphans is to find them a family. If you want to help, we will train you to find and equip families for children to be placed with.

Help Equip Churches Locally or Globally

Do you have flexible hours during the week? Come serve behind the scenes with the IVC Team and other volunteers to equip our church to make a difference. We need ambassadors, writers, event coordinators, people with organization skills, creative thinkers, and people who just want to be helpful.

Help Support and Care for Adoptive and Foster Families

Help our local adoptive, foster, and kinship families make ends meet by serving them in unique ways that are specific to their needs. You and your small group can bring a breath of fresh air by providing a Family Connection Visit. Your group would bring a meal and fun activities that we provide along with a Family Care Coordinator who will lead your day of service.

Go on a Mission Trip

You can go with a mission team to places like Rwanda, Costa Rica, and even other churches in the U.S. to learn about the PEACE Plan and developing healthy church mobilization strategies. We will provide all the training materials you need to inspire and equip churches to launch a Vulnerable Children Initiative, helping them empty orphanages by placing children into families!

Serve at Events with the Childcare Team

If you want to work directly with children, this is the perfect place for you. Many of our family support events require childcare, and we will train you to work with Saddleback's childcare ministry. Another monthly event we have involves serving the foster kids at the Orangewood Family Center in Orange.

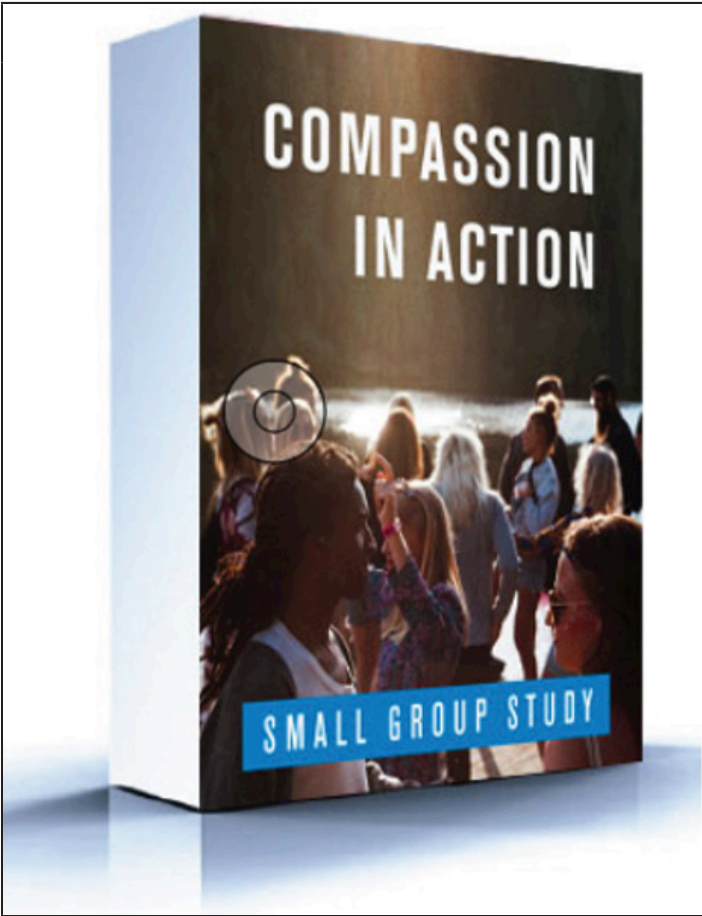
Become a Mentor for Aged-Out Youth

If you are willing to make a deeper commitment and serve youth who are in need of love, this is for you. We require a background check and trauma training for many of these opportunities. The ages of the children vary from teenagers to young adults, and these youth often live in group homes.

Serve Wherever the Orphan Care Team Needs Me

If you just want to be used by God and don't care whether your role is on a pedestal or behind the scenes, this is the opportunity for you. Sometimes we need people on short notice to react to a great opportunity that has presented itself. Having a pool of servant-hearted people that can spring into action to pitch in where needed is great!

Bible Study Group Ambassador Kit

	Group Curriculum
	<p>Video-Based</p> <p>Trauma-Informed Care</p> <p>Biblical Discipleship</p> <p>Serving Projects</p> <p>Prayer Guide</p>

Example of Resource Used at Saddleback

PART 3

TRANSFORM: C.A.R.E. COLLABORATIVE

Lesson 3.1

Overview

Creating a C.A.R.E. Collaborative

A **C.A.R.E. Collaborative** is holistic care for at-risk families with vulnerable children. The Bible teaches us to care for widows and orphans and to share the love of Christ.

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans . . . (James 1:27, NLT)

Caring for vulnerable children with a trauma history can be overwhelming and exhausting for a family to do on their own. Statically 50% of new foster families quit after one year and another 50% quit during year two, leaving only 25% of those who get a foster care license to carry the load. We want the Church to change this with a sustainable, reproducible, and scalable collaborative of CARE for families. The Church should be a place where our vulnerable families feel precious, safe, and heard. If we can make our families feel precious, safe, and heard, they can make their children feel precious, safe, and heard, too. This is done through trauma-informed volunteers to help build a C.A.R.E. Collaborative throughout the community. A C.A.R.E. Collaborative offers “wrap-around” care.

Aspects of a C.A.R.E. Collaborative

There are five aspects to a C.A.R.E. Collaborative. Each aspect meets specific needs of the family and provides vital volunteer-based ministries.

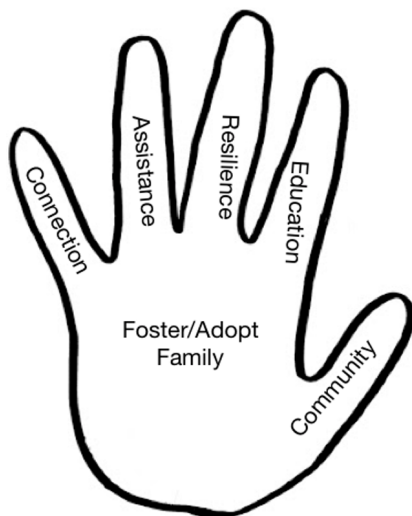
C-connect: Bridge events and programs that connect families with the church

A-assistance: Practical resources and services that connect families with volunteers

R-resilience: Events and programs that connect families with peers

E-equip: Training and tools that connect families with a health pathway of healing

Collaborative: Training and programs to bring TBRI to all systems related to children



This acrostic for wrap-around care can be illustrated using a picture of a hand. Imagine that each finger represents one of the five aspects of C.A.R.E. Collaborative (Connection, Assistance, Resilience, Education, and Collaborative), with the word “Family” written in the palm of the hand. Now imagine that hand closed into a fist; the fingers (the C.A.R.E. Collaborative) are wrapping around the family, helping hold it together. When all five of these needs are addressed within the church context, the family will be less likely to fall apart and cause further trauma for the children and families.

Lesson 3.2

Connection

The church is the place to find acceptance, grace, and love. It is the place to connect, to belong.

Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, and had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:4-6, MSG)

Connection events are intentional onramps to engage with families within the church congregation and community. These are typically stand alone events that require no or low commitment for the attendees. These events are designed to help the most volunteers in the church, specifically the Initiative for Vulnerable Children, connect with the most families in the community and church. The event serves as a bridge to build relationships and begin a transformation pathway.

- **Resource Distribution Events:** Family events that meet a resource need in a fun way. Examples: Snuggle Day, Christmas Store, Back to School Supplies
- **Family Fun Days:** Family events designed to foster fellowship between families and their children. Examples: Picnics, Drive-Throughs, Hiking, Beach Days
- **Child/Teen Programs and Camps:** Fun, safe places for kids to explore and learn about their own trauma/attachment/relationships. Examples: Royal Family Kids, Ink About It Workshops, Trauma-Informed Soccer Camp.

Lesson 3.3

Assistance

All families need practical assistance from time to time, often in the form of service projects, resources, and ongoing encouragement/prayer.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2, NIV)

This aspect of C.A.R.E. is intended to connect church volunteers to families in order to meet practical and specific needs. Trained Family Care Coordinators, FCC (church volunteers), will work directly with foster/adoptive families to identify specific needs that can be met through small groups and our church family. A few ways volunteers can assist families in practical ways are:

- **Care Boxes:** A Care Box can provide a few essential resources for a family and give volunteers an easy way to take a first step toward providing care. Filling a box with a suggested list makes this something anyone in the church can do. Care Boxes can be themed for meeting needs based on a child's age and gender or it can be seasonal like Christmas, back-to-school, nurture group supplies.
- **Donation Coordination:** Some families have physical needs like furniture and clothing that may exceed what fits in a Care Box. Having a volunteer team who can connect requests from families to those in our church who want to give is a great way to provide assistance. CarePortal is a technology platform that can offer this service at great scale and is available in many countries, states, and regions.
- **Care Community:** A Care Collaborative can be formed with like-minded individuals or by recruiting an existing Bible Study group. The Care Collaborative essentially adopts a vulnerable family and provides support through resources, service, and encouragement. Promise 686 provides an excellent model for building and maintaining Care Communities. They created Promise Serves, a web-based dashboard, specifically to handle the custom needs this ministry requires.

Lesson 3.4

Resilience

Both parents and children need a safe place to tell their stories, find encouragement, and regain hope for their challenging life-long journey.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. **2 Corinthians 1:3-5***

We must provide peer-to-peer programs that allow participants to be active participants in their own healing process. By combining TBRI based knowledge and safe opportunities to gain self-care insights, parents can find the accountability and on-going support they need. It is much easier to endure a hard journey when you walk in the community of friends.

- **Training Support Groups:** Curriculum based learning for parents to discuss in small groups. Example: *The Connection: Where Hearts Meet* video/workbook, *Empowered to Connect*, *The Connected Parent* book & discussion guide
- **Retreats:** Day or multi-day opportunities to recharge and receive care.
- **Coffee Chat:** Time with a peer or mentor, regarding parenting kids from hard places. This is a good way for parents to have accountability in meeting growth goals, pray specifically with and for each other, as well as establish deeper relationships (to have specific people on speed dial when dysregulated).

Lesson 3.5

Education

All families benefit from learning new skills for parenting, marriage and maintaining a healthy household.

*...We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.
(Colossians 1:9-12, NIV)*

We can provide educational resources that have evidence-based tools with a biblical perspective geared toward helping families find hope, helps, and healing.

- **Topical Training:** Relevant, on-going training for caregivers. Example: TBRI classes taught by a TBRI Practitioner (weekly), marriage/adult attachment, budgeting and other pertinent workshops.
- **Nurture Groups:** Offer whole-family learning experiences with nurture groups.
- **Conferences:** Occasionally we can offer a wide range of learning experiences with multiple workshops in a conference setting. Such as Empower To Connect or For The Least Conference.

Lesson 3.6

Community and TBRI Collaborations

Establish a TBRI collaborative in the community. Advocate for trauma-informed practices within all the systems that touch the life of a child. We have three primary methods of bringing the TBRI model to each system. First, is an official live TBRI training taught by a TBRI Practitioner. Next, is video-based learning groups established among peers within each system. Lastly, implementation with children and families of specific trauma-informed interventions relevant to a particular system. Implementation always involves children and may be a variation of the nurture group model.

These are the six systems that impact children in a TBRI collaborative and the people that may be involved with in each system:

- **Schools:** Trauma-informed staff, culture & classrooms
- **Judicial systems:** Trauma-informed environments (calming room), programs, court-appointed special advocates (CASA) and court staff
- **Church and Community groups:** Trauma-informed church staff, kid's ministry, youth sports clubs, boys/girls' clubs, Scouts, etc.
- **Clinicians:** Trauma-informed professionals in the medical and mental health fields who understand how early childhood trauma affects behavior and health
- **Social services:** Trauma-informed case workers that work to train families
- **Families:** TBRI parent training with the goal to build deep connections between primary caregivers and the vulnerable children within families

Appendix:

51 Verses about Vulnerable Children and Adoption

No.	Verse Reference	Biblical Text*
1	Deuteronomy 10:18	He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. (ESV)
2	Deuteronomy 14:28-29	At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. (NIV)
3	Deuteronomy 16:11	And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within your towns, the sojourner, the fatherless , and the widow who are among you, at the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name dwell there. (ESV)
4	Deuteronomy 16:14	You shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless , and the widow who are within your towns. (ESV)
5	Deuteronomy 24:17	You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless , or take a widow's garment in pledge,... (ESV)
6	Deuteronomy 24:19	When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless , and the widow, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. (ESV)

7	Deuteronomy 24:20	When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless , and the widow. (ESV)
8	Deuteronomy 24:21	When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless , and the widow. (ESV)
9	Deuteronomy 26:12	When you have finished paying all the tithe of your produce in the third year, which is the year of tithing, giving it to the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless , and the widow, so that they may eat within your towns and be filled,... (ESV)
10	Deuteronomy 26:13	Then you shall say before the Lord your God, 'I have removed the sacred portion out of my house, and moreover, I have given it to the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless , and the widow, according to all your commandment that you have commanded me. I have not transgressed any of your commandments, nor have I forgotten them. (ESV)
11	Deuteronomy 27:19	'Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless , and the widow.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.' (ESV)
12	Esther 2:7	Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother . This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died. (NIV)
13	Exodus 22:22	You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. (ESV)
14	Exodus 22:23-24	If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless . (ESV)
15	Ezekiel 22:7	Father and mother are treated with contempt in you; the sojourner suffers extortion in your midst; the fatherless and the widow are wronged in you. (ESV)

16	Hosea 14:3	Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy. (ESV)
17	Isaiah 1:17	Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless , plead the widow's cause. (ESV)
18	Isaiah 1:23	Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not bring justice to the fatherless , and the widow's cause does not come to them. (ESV)
19	Isaiah 10:1-2	Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression, to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, that widows may be their spoil, and that they may make the fatherless their prey! (ESV)
20	Isaiah 9:17	Therefore the Lord does not rejoice over their young men, and has no compassion on their fatherless and widows; for everyone is godless and an evildoer, and every mouth speaks folly. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still. (ESV)
21	James 1:27	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. (NIV)
22	Jeremiah 22:3	Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless , and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place. (ESV)
23	Jeremiah 49:11	Leave your fatherless children; I will keep them alive; and let your widows trust in me. (ESV)
24	Jeremiah 5:28	They have grown fat and sleek. They know no bounds in deeds of evil; they judge not with justice the cause of the fatherless , to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy. (ESV)

25	Jeremiah 7:6	If you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm (NIV)
26	Job 22:9	You have sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless were crushed. (ESV)
27	Job 24:3	They drive away the donkey of the fatherless ; they take the widow's ox for a pledge. (ESV)
28	Job 24:9	There are those who snatch the fatherless child from the breast, and they take a pledge against the poor. (ESV)
29	Job 29:12	Because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him. (ESV)
30	Job 31:16–17	If I have withheld anything that the poor desired, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail, or have eaten my morsel alone, and the fatherless has not eaten of it... (ESV)
31	Job 31:18	For from my youth the fatherless grew up with me as with a father, and from my mother's womb I guided the widow. (ESV)
32	Job 31:21	If I have raised my hand against the fatherless , because I saw my help in the gate,... (ESV)
33	Job 6:27	You would even cast lots over the fatherless , and bargain over your friend. (ESV)
34	John 14:18	I will not leave you as orphans ; I will come to you. (ESV)
35	Lamentations 5:3	We have become fatherless , our mothers are widows. (NIV)
36	Malachi 3:5	Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless , against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. (ESV)
37	Proverbs 23:10	Do not move an ancient landmark or enter the fields of the fatherless ,... (ESV)

38	Psalms 10:14	But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation, that you may take it into your hands; to you the helpless commits himself; you have been the helper of the fatherless . (ESV)
39	Psalms 10:18	Defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror. (NIV)
40	Psalms 109:12	Let there be none to extend kindness to him, nor any to pity his fatherless children! (ESV)
41	Psalms 109:9	May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow! (ESV)
42	Psalms 68:5	Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. (ESV)
43	Psalms 82:3-4	Give justice to the weak and the fatherless ; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. (ESV)
44	Psalms 94:6	They slay the widow and the foreigner; they murder the fatherless . (NIV)
45	Psalms 146:9	The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless , but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. (ESV)
46	Zechariah 7:10	Do not oppress the widow, the fatherless , the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart. (ESV)
47	Galatians 4:4-7	But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (ESV)
48	Ephesians 1:4-5	Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,... (ESV)

49	Romans 8:15	For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (ESV)
50	Romans 8:23	And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (ESV)
51	Romans 9:4	They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption , the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. (ESV)

*Bolding is added to translations.