

SERMON NOTES Sunday 11 January

sunnysidechurch

Safeguarding Sunday

Bible passages: James 2:14-26 and John 4:4-14

Introduction

Every one of us has an important role in this church to ensure that **everyone** who comes to this church feels safe. But we need to know how to do this proactively and how to recognise signs and respond well, if we suspect abuse.

Theologically

There are so many Bible passages that provide strong safeguarding foundational guidance:

- James 2:14-26
- John 4:4-14
- Corinthians 12:12-26
- John 13: 34-35
- Matthew 19:13-15

Reflect on these passages and any other Bible Passage that you think guides us in safeguarding and why?

Jesus meets the Woman at the Well

- Jesus focuses on the vulnerable
- Jesus really hears and listens the voice of the unheard
- Jesus uses his power to empower
- Jesus came to bring abundant life to others

What else can we learn from this passage or any other that guides us on our responsibility to safeguarding in this church?

Conclusion: We are all made in the image of God and as Christians we are all called to love God and to love one another in action. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another".

Some questions to discuss:

1. What is your first reaction when you hear the word 'Safeguarding'? What do you think of?
2. Do you know what makes something a Safeguarding concern?
3. What do you think are the most important things to take out from Safeguarding Sunday?
4. At Sunnyside, what do we do well from a Safeguarding perspective?
5. At Sunnyside, what we could do better?
6. At Sunnyside, what do we do to ensure people feel safe?
7. Does everyone know what to do, and who to speak to if they have a concern?
8. If someone told us that they were concerned about the safety of a child or a vulnerable adult – how confident would we be in knowing what to do?
9. What might we find difficult in reporting a concern?
10. What are the 4 R's and what might they look like in detail?

Discuss some case studies:

Dawn (aged 15 years) You are helping at a youth event and are on the way to an outing with a mixed group of 8 youth and another leader. Dawn tells you about her new boyfriend, aged 22. He does not work and she says he really looks after her. He has a cool new car and did not want her to come on this youth trip, but as she had persuaded him as she really wanted to be with her friends. Her boyfriend has given her a new iPhone so that they can keep in touch. Later that evening, you see Dawn withdraw from the group campfire and study her phone intently. When she comes back to the group, she looks upset and says she feels ill and would like to go home.

What are your concerns?

How would you respond?

And what would you do?

Sonia (adult). Sonia is a self supported minister and is married to John and has two young children. John works in a pressurised, well paid, banking job which involves travelling away from home. As a consequence, Sonia carries most of the childcare and homemaking responsibilities as well as her work as an SSM. Sonia has told you that John has become quite controlling over her. She is not sure if the children have noticed. She said that she had a very loud row with him recently and said that this now seems to happen a lot. On the last occasion he pushed her to the floor. There was no visible mark, but Sonia is worried that it is going to worse.

What are your concerns?

How would you respond?

And what would you do?