**Safe Ministry for the Young Harvest (adapted from Kim Batson, YHT 2010)**

**We are in Spiritual Warfare**

There is a destiny for each young person, but Satan has placed barriers in their way. We must be spiritually strong and prepared for battle, and we must make wise choices and live above reproach. We cannot take a break or get too comfortable.

**Good Touch**

1. Children must have good touch to survive. Good touch is defined as touch to the back of the shoulder or to the forearm. Touching too long can be construed or confused as sexual in nature and should be avoided.
2. Be cautious, not afraid. It is much better to be PROACTIVE than reactive!

**Supervision (*for your protection and theirs*)**

1. Use the buddy policy when you must escort a camper to his/her cabin: take an adult with you. Please do not get caught alone with a camper.
2. Cabin leaders should use your neighbor to help out with supervision of campers.
3. Larger groups should be supervised at a ratio of 1 to 10.
4. If there is no window in the door, leave the door open.
5. Children should never be left alone unsupervised.
6. Never counsel a camper alone. Have an adult out of earshot, but not out of eyeshot.

**No Bullying Zone**

1. Zero tolerance of bullying behaviors, losing the “Boys will be Boys” mentality.
2. Bullying affects self-image and self-esteem; allowing it negatively affects your ministry.
3. Boys display more physical bullying behaviors; girls display more emotional bullying behaviors, but all bullying is harmful.

**How to Stop Bullying**

1. Confront bulling behavior immediately, but don’t embarrass a child that has been bullied.
2. Praise bystanders for helping/state concern for doing nothing; give ways they can help.
3. State the behavior as bullying behavior. If it continues, remove the bully.

**Abuse**

**Who is a Mandated Reporter of Abuse?** Anyone who has the responsibility for the care of children, whether it is physical, emotional, sexual, etc… **What is probable cause?** Available facts when viewed in the light of surrounding circumstances would cause a reasonable person to believe a child was abused or neglected.

**Reporting Suspected Abuse**

1. All abuse/incident reports must be reported within 24 hours of it being discovered.
2. Children/Youth Workers inform your Pastor; camp workers inform your Camp Director.
3. Confidentiality

**Servant Leadership**

***I belong to Jesus. He must have the right to use me without consulting me. – Mother Teresa***

***I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus. – Mother Teresa***

Service is from the same Greek work from which we get deacon, meaning aid, attendance, relief, or service. This indicates what a servant actually does: to work, serve, enslave, keep in bondage, do service; to serve or worship, minister; to be a slave or in bondage to; to minister to God.

From a Biblical perspective, there are several ways to view service and servanthood:

1. It is a choice *(Deuteronomy 15:12-18; Joshua 24:15; Romans 6:16, 18)*
2. Service to God *(Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:12, 20; Joshua 24:14; 1 Samuel 12:20; Psalm 100:2; Hebrews* *9:14)* and others *(1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10-11)* is a biblical requirement for the Christian life
3. It is mentioned as one of the gifts of the Spirit *(Romans 12:6-8)*
4. It is part of “pure and undefiled religion” *(James 1:27)*
5. It is necessary for “greatness” *(Matthew 10:24; Mark 10:42-43)*
6. *“Serving God means putting Him first, obeying His commands, and finding one’s chief joy in life as the advancement of the glory of His name” (Nelson Study Bible, NKJV, pg. 1563).*

There are several qualities or characteristics of a servant demonstrated in the Bible. Moses displayed humility *(Numbers 12:3)*. Caleb modeled obedience and loyalty as he assisted Joshua *(Numbers 14:24)*. David exhibited faithfulness to God and was a man after God’s heart *(1Kings 14:8b*). Job was the epitome of uprightness and blamelessness *(Job 1:8; 2:3*). The New Testament teaches how the servant should look: gentle, teachable, and patient *(2 Timothy 2:24-25)*.

***“Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.” –*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Jesus outlines the marks of a servant for us as well in Luke 17:7-10:

1. A servant must possess a willingness to work tirelessly and thanklessly
2. A servant must not regard the master as selfish or self as profitable; and,
3. No matter how much is done, a servant humbly admits he has only done his duty.

Jesus Christ embodies all the characteristics of a servant and epitomizes all a servant should be, by modeling a life of service to man and God *(Isaiah 41:4; 49:1-4; 52:13-15; 53; Zechariah 3:8; John 1:14; 13:1-17; Philippians* *2:5-11)*. In Jesus’ ministry, service was as much for Him *(the servant)* as the one being served. By not allowing others to serve, we rob them of their blessing.