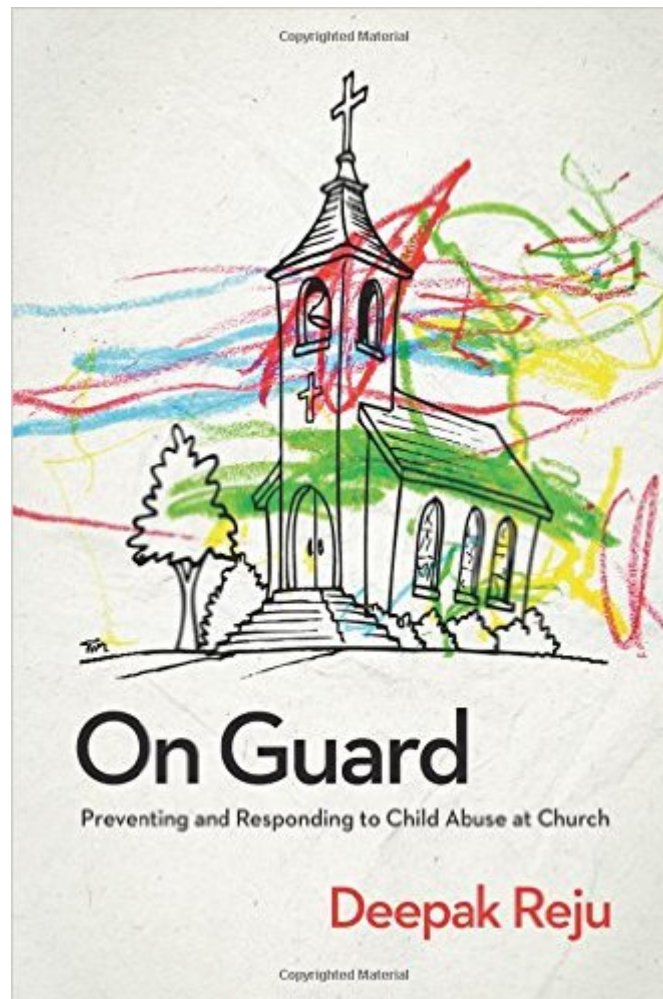


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# On Guard: Preventing And Responding To Child Abuse At Church



## Synopsis

Predator in the Pews, /p> "Jimmy" joined the church a year ago. Before long, he volunteered to teach a Sunday School class and got to know eight-year-old Peter. Things started innocently. A hug at the end of class. Gifts for Peter. Lots of extra attention. And then it happened. Jimmy took advantage of Peter. Since Sandusky and the scandals in the Catholic Church, the issue of sexual abuse has shifted to the forefront of our collective mind. Many churches are poised for action but unsure of what action to take. In *On Guard*, Deepak Reju examines why child predators target churches and offers eleven straightforward strategies to protect children from abuse and to help young victims recover if it does happen. While *On Guard* does provide practical help for building a child protection policy, it provides much more. Full of pastoral wisdom, *On Guard* recognizes that the church's response to abuse must be more comprehensive in line with her calling than a simple legal policy or clinical analysis. *On Guard* moves church staff and leaders beyond fearful awareness to prayerful preparedness with an actionable plan. Church, be on guard! Child abuse can happen anywhere, and we need a plan for how to prevent and respond to it. What's yours? *On Guard* is:

**Timely:** Since Sandusky and the scandals in the Catholic Church, the issue of sexual abuse has shifted to the forefront of our collective mind. Churches are poised for action, but unsure of what action to take.

**Actionable:** *On Guard* moves church staff and leaders beyond fearful awareness to prayerful preparedness with a practical plan.

**Holistic:** *On Guard* is full of pastoral wisdom, recognizing that the church's response to abuse must be more comprehensive in line with her calling than a simple legal policy or clinical analysis.

**Child Protection Policy:** Equips church staff to build the child protection policy that's right for an individual congregation and provides sample material.

**Sensitive:** Presents difficult material clearly, but is not unnecessarily graphic.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If I could mandate that at least one leader from every church had to read a single book, I don't think there are too many I would choose ahead of *On Guard: Preventing and Responding to Child Abuse at Church*. It's not that it is the best book I have ever read (though it is plenty good) or that it contains the deepest theology (though there is plenty of good doctrine within its pages). It's that too many times the purpose and witness of the church has been tarnished by her failure to offer safety and protection to children. This book offers assistance where so many churches have failed. Deepak Reju is a Pastor of Biblical Counseling and Family Ministry at (Mark Dever's) Capitol Hill Baptist Church and father to five young children. From that vantage point he sees the danger and the devastation of abuse and its prevalence within the church. And from that vantage point he provides an excellent resource that is meant to help. *On Guard* has three broad purposes: to protect children from the horrors of child abuse, to fill a gap in Christian publishing and resourcing, and to provide a comprehensive approach to preventing and responding to child abuse at church. In all three areas Reju succeeds well. In the book's first few chapters Reju describes and defines the problem of child abuse in the church and deals with some too-common misperceptions. He shows how and why child predators often hide in plain sight within the church, knowing that it may be the safest and easiest place to prey upon children. The heart of the book is eight chapters that each describe a strategy for protecting against abuse; these range from creating and implementing a child protection policy, to screening staff members, to getting familiar with people and resources in your local community.

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