

STUDY GUIDE

# Effective Ministry to Kids and Youth in Foster Care



## Introduction

Gain a vision for reaching kids in the foster care system.



## Why do we need to minister more effectively to children and youth in foster care?

The Church has an unparalleled opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of so many hurting kids

In the United States, there are nearly 400,000 children in the foster care system.

Children in foster care are a uniquely vulnerable population. They are at significantly greater risk of:

- **Mental illness**
- **Chronic physical health problems**
- **Failing and dropping out of school**
- **Abuse and neglect**
- **Behavioral problems**
- **Child sex trafficking**

Among kids who age out of the foster care system:

- **8 out of 10 boys will spend time in jail.**
- **7 out of 10 girls will become pregnant in the first year.**

As Christ followers, we can be God's conduit to draw these hurting children to himself, changing their lives forever.

Experts estimate that there are thousands of kids in the foster care system currently being trafficked. In fact, research shows that most child sex trafficking victims had at least some involvement with the child welfare system.

## Discussion Questions

- ① Do you think that effectively serving children in foster care should be a priority for the Church? How does this align with your understanding of your church's role in the community?

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- ② Christians often express sympathy for children in foster care and indicate a desire to include them within the life of the church. Are good intentions enough? What are the potential risks of engaging with children in foster care without a basic understanding of trauma?

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- ③ How do you envision this course having a positive impact on your church and the children you serve? What are your hopes for the outcomes of this course?

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