



## Five Tips for Biblical Safety

It is important for safety and security to be at the forefront of our minds when it comes to our ministry facilities. In this day and age, we read the headlines of unexplainable chaos and violence that result from our fallen world. 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.” While we should not be controlled by fear, we should exercise sound judgment and take action to protect ourselves and our people.

As a church safety advocate and coverage provider, we believe that taking the time to invest in facility safety and security allows people to feel protected and loved by your ministry, so you can continue to confidently serve. Here are five tips to help your church responsibly protect your flock.

### 1 Assess the need and establish goals.

How often do people meet at your facilities?  
How many safety team members do you need?  
What level of response do you want them to have?  
If you want to be able to handle the threat of an armed intruder, your goal should be to have a well-trained, properly equipped response team.

### 2 Review your current coverage.

Working alongside your church insurance agent and provider to review your current insurance policy is essential. Insurance policies react in different ways to security incidences and to the ministry’s response of those incidences. Many insurance policies won’t cover the individuals on the safety team, and many won’t cover the ministry itself in certain circumstances related to a security incident. By proactively addressing your current coverage and coverage needs, you ensure that your risk management strategy aligns with your goal of protecting your ministry.

### 3 Choose the right people for your safety ministry.

Interview candidates and assess their experience as well as their character and ability to respond in a calm, measured, humble and caring manner in all situations.

### 4 Communicate a culture of safety.

Safety and security is everyone’s responsibility, even those not officially on the safety team. Remind your church about situational awareness and emphasize the “see something, say something” model.

### 5 Provide training.

Many churches feel that having individuals who are legally authorized to carry a concealed handgun in their congregation is sufficient preparation, but most handgun classes are not designed to train you to protect others in a crowded environment. Your church should make a commitment to offering proper training for your team so they have the knowledge to respond to threats appropriately.

This communication is intended to be educational in nature and should not be relied on as legal advice. Every church should seek legal advice to address the specific circumstances and concerns related to their ministry.

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