



# 5 TIPS FOR BIBLICAL CHURCH SAFETY

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Every time people walk through the doors of your ministry facility, they expect to feel safe. 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. Have the right coverage in place.** After you determine what you need to meet your security goals, consult your church insurance provider to make sure your policy supports that. Many insurance policies don't cover the individuals on safety teams, and many don't cover the ministry itself if there is a security incident. Make sure you choose the right coverage that supports your goals and legally covers your team members to do the job that you've asked them to do.
- 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 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.



At GuideStone®, we have teamed up with Strategos International to provide church security training resources for your people. To access free videos and resources for you and your church team to walk through together, visit [GuideStone.org/ChurchSafety](https://www.GuideStone.org/ChurchSafety).