

Student Handout: Responding to a Burglar Alarm at Church

1. Safety First

- Never respond alone if possible.
- Stay alert for ambush or secondary threats.
- Keep a safe distance until the scene is assessed.
- Always maintain situational awareness (360-degree checks).

2. Approach to the Church

- Park in a position that gives visibility and cover.
- Turn off headlights near the property to avoid backlighting yourself.
- Use flashlights tactically, not constantly.
- Check for signs of forced entry before going inside.

3. Inside the Building

- Clear rooms systematically with another team member.
- Do not touch or move evidence of a break-in.
- Be cautious of hiding spots (bathrooms, closets, stairwells).
- Treat every unknown sound or shadow as a potential threat until confirmed safe.

4. Communication

- Notify local law enforcement immediately.
- Keep constant radio/phone contact with your team.
- Relay location updates and any signs of entry or suspects.
- Have one point of contact with law enforcement when they arrive.

5. Decision-Making

- Know when to stop and wait for police backup.
- Avoid pursuing suspects outside the church.
- Remember: the goal is protecting life, not catching criminals.

6. After the Alarm

- Document the incident with notes or photos if safe to do so.
- Complete an After Action Review (AAR) with your team.
- Report any security weaknesses (locks, windows, cameras).
- Pray together afterward, seeking God's protection and guidance.

Biblical Perspective

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong." – 1 Corinthians 16:13

We are protectors, not aggressors. Our role is to shield the flock while honoring God.

