

# Children's Ministries

## Discipline Guidelines



### 1. Aim

As the purpose of our various children's ministries is *to cultivate a passion for the supremacy of God magnified in love for him and manifested in love for one another*, our goal in discipline is two-fold. First, we strive to call each child to obedience and submission as set forth in the Word, submission to teachers, parents, and ultimately to God. Second, we aim for a classroom that is orderly, where the Word is the focus. We want to teach children to be attentive and respectful to the Word and respectful to those around them. Teachers, likewise, will model submission to the Savior and respect for the Word through loving, firm, consistent discipline and forgiveness and restoration of errant children.

### 2. Steps of Correction

The guidelines below exhibit a general expectation of behavior for all children, with clear but flexible application according to each child's need. No member of the Spiritual Formation teams may administer corporal punishment, but may recommend it to the parent when needed.

#### 2.1. Step 1 – Correction in the Class

A child exhibiting misbehavior will be corrected in class. This correction *may* include, but is not limited to:

- Correcting the child verbally;
- Moving the child's seat;
- Sitting the child next to the teacher;
- Removing the child from a particular activity;
- Taking the child aside for verbal correction;
- Loss of privilege in the classroom

Most issues in the classroom will be dealt with in Step 1.

#### 2.2. Step 2 – Parent Correction with Return to Class

When a child's disobedience is repetitive, significantly disruptive to the class, or a correction in Step 1 is responded to with rebellion, the parent will be asked to remove the child briefly from the classroom and administer correction. The child is then encouraged to return to class to experience forgiveness, restoration, and a new opportunity to obey. The parents will also be reminded that if they are called again during this class session, the child will not be allowed to return during that session.

#### 2.3. Step 3 – Parent Removal from Class Session

This step may be implemented in cases where the Steps 1 and 2 are ineffective in helping the child grow in obedience, self-control, and submission.

In this step, parents are asked to come and remove the child from the classroom for correction and the child *may not* return to that class session on that day. The child should accompany the parent(s) into the service or parent's Bible Education class and sit quietly without disruption or "entertainment".

#### 2.4. Step – Standing Parent Removal from Class

If necessary, the teacher may request of the Team Leader that the child be placed in a standing parent removal. The Team Leader for the age group and Director for Children's Ministries shall decide whether or not this is the appropriate action. The Team Leader or Director should notify the parents and the teacher that this step will be implemented on the next infraction. In this step, Step 2 will no longer be utilized, and the child will immediately be removed and not allowed to return to that session.

### **3. Follow Up**

Persistent and unresolved discipline issues may require further follow up outside of class. This may include but is not limited to the following.

1. Discussion of the issues with the Pastor for Spiritual Formation;
2. A conference with the parents which includes the teacher(s) and the Director of the Children's Ministry;
3. A conference with the above and including the Pastor for Spiritual Formation;
4. A recommendation for counseling made to the families' flock pastor. This recommendation can only be made by joint agreement of the Pastor for Spiritual Formation and the Director for Children's Ministry. No individual team member will make such a recommendation on their own.

In the case where a child is injured by another, either accidentally or intentionally, then an Incident Report Form is to be filled out, following the guidelines on that form.