

Appendix III - Faith Church Discipline Guidelines for Children's Ministry

One of the aims for Sunday school teachers and other children's ministry workers is to provide love, along with prayer, that makes it easy for children to respond to the teacher, classroom rules, and God. When correction becomes necessary, the delivery should be in the form of thoughtful, loving, and firm verbal communication.

The dignity of each child should be preserved. There is no corporal punishment, yelling, or shaming of kids in discipline. A child should not be made to feel rejected by correction. Private correction is always preferable. Privacy can be achieved by speaking to a child quietly or going to one side of the room. Do not take a child alone one-on-one to another room.

Always pray, pray, pray. Pray for your students and your teaching on a consistent basis.

"Behavior is not the basic issue. The basic issue is always what is going on in the heart."

—*Shepherding a Child's Heart*, Tedd Tripp

1. Set up appropriate interactions and expectations to reduce the incidence of misbehavior.

- Check the environment. Sometimes simple changes in a room's structure can help steer children toward appropriate behavior. For example, removing a distracting toy or object to a closet can be helpful.
- Be prepared to teach. Be sure you have the attention of your students before beginning teaching.
- Be sure activities are developmentally appropriate. Extending story time beyond a practical amount of time is bound to lead to problems.
- Moving physically closer to a child who is misbehaving is sometimes all that is needed to correct behavior.
- Make sure children know the expectations for their behavior. State your expectations clearly and simply. Post age-appropriate classroom rules if necessary.

2. If inappropriate behavior occurs, state expectations and consequences. For example, "Blocks are for building and not throwing. If you throw the blocks again, you will not be able to play with them."

- Follow through with any consequences. Children learn best with consistency.
- If inappropriate behavior persists, you may need to separate the child for a quick time-out. Time-out should be one minute long for each year of a child's age. The time-out should be within the room.
- Communicate with the parents if there was a problem requiring discipline.
- Always bring a child back to the gospel. Remind them (at their level) we are all sinners in need of God's saving grace.

3. If the behavior persists and is disruptive, have an adult find the parent. The parent can remove the child for appropriate discipline or stay in the classroom with the child. Sometimes the presence of a parent helps to calm the situation.

4. Remember to extend grace to the child. It can be easy to let previous behaviors affect the current situation. This is a great opportunity to model the love and forgiveness of God.

5. If the behavior is severe and ongoing, then the teacher should contact the Children's Ministries Coordinator or a member of the CDM. If necessary, a conference will be set up with the parents to develop a plan to address the problem.

Proverbs 3:11-12: "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in."

Signature Page

I understand the Faith Church Condensed Child Protection Policy and Discipline Policy and procedures and agree to abide by these procedures to the best of my ability.

I understand that failure to abide by these policies and procedures may result in my removal from any positions involving the care of children and/or criminal charges where applicable.

If for some reason I change my mind and can no longer abide by these policies and procedures, I will immediately notify a member of the safety team and immediately cease to work with the children of Faith church.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____