

## TIPS FOR DISCIPLINE

- **Seek to redirect the student** away from their incorrect behavior to what it is they need to be focused on. Doing this before the situation escalates can be very helpful. Many times this is done with a simple comment referring to the classroom rules, making direct eye contact with the child or a touch on the shoulder.
- **When the misbehavior warrants it, the child should be dealt with privately.** Sufficient grounds for meeting alone with the student would be such things as placing other children in danger, repeatedly not submitting to the teacher's authority (after the third offence) or completely disrupting the class. The private meeting is best held in a public place with the knowledge of at least one other person. This can be accomplished in the hall during class if there are sufficient teachers or the student can be asked to stay after class for a few minutes. A child should never be dealt with alone by a teacher behind closed doors. All of this helps the teacher to stay above reproach.
- **Guidelines for meeting privately with a student.**
  1. Ask the student what they did that has prompted the meeting. This helps to clarify the issues with the student. This provides a setting for the teacher to explain what confession is about and to draw the student's attention to such passages as 1 John 1:9.
  2. Next, seek to discuss with the child why he broke the rules. This begins to address the child's motives, attitudes and beliefs. Again, this is an excellent time to seek to explain what the Bible teaches about such things as selfishness, pride, impatience, jealousy, etc. Teachers should expect that many students will not be able to explain themselves very clearly for a variety of reasons. This will require prayerful patience and instruction.
  3. Pray with the student and seek to explain to them how they can get re-involved with the class even if it is the following week. Creating a plan for the future will greatly assist both the teacher and the student to use the disciplinary action as a very positive experience.
- **Use the parent factor sooner rather than later.** If the teacher has had a private meeting with the student and problems persist, it is time to call the parents after the second private meeting. The teacher need not threaten the student about contacting the parents. A simple phone call to the parent calmly explaining what has happened and asking for their advice and help may completely solve the problem. Most parents want to help and are thankful for the phone call. It is important to get the parents involved before the situation escalates.
- **Avoid the bottomless pit of threats and lectures.** This helps prevent students from continually testing the teacher's limits of patience. The teacher's "yes" needs to mean "yes" and their "no" must mean "no". The teacher should calmly and rationally deal with the disciple situation and let the student experience the logical consequences of his/her misconduct. Threats and lectures usually lead to angry teachers resulting in the student's disrespect of the teacher and more discipline problems.



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