

Discipling Children – Teacher Overview

Spiritual Preparation: Pray for each child. Ask God for direction and guidance as you prepare the session. Try to establish a regular quiet time to be with God.

Organizational Preparation: Go over the session early in the week. Know the material well enough that you do not have to consistently be referring to the book. Adjust the material to meet the needs of your particular group of children. Determine ahead of time how you will affirm the children under your care. Make certain you have the supplies you need.

Child Involvement: Plan to involve children in the discipling journey. Determine ways they can participate through leading, as well as through discovery learning. In addition, children arriving early can help with set up as you are conversing with them about the week.

Relationship Building: Be in the room early so you can greet each child as he/she comes. Learn the names of the children and what is important to them. Seek to discern what their relationship with Christ is like. You can ask questions like: When do you feel closest to God? How do you feel when you think of Jesus? What is Jesus like? Why do you think Jesus loves you?

Partnering With Parents: Make it a point to strike up conversation with parents as they drop off their children. Be sure to let parents regularly know the nature of the content you are covering and give suggestions as to what they can do at home to help their child grow in faith. Periodic phone calls to parents to tell them how much you appreciate their child are always welcome and reflect Christ's love and concern for children.

Discipline: Be aware of the guidelines. Make sure the children know the expectations. Stay in control of your emotions. Never use corporal punishment. Don't ignore problems. Be consistent and follow through.

Guiding: As a teacher/discipler, you model Christ for the children who are under your care. Information or knowledge alone will not support the kind of radical transformation spoken of in God's Word. Transformation happens when our hearts are open to the leading of the Spirit through the things we do, as well as through study. An integrated approach to formation includes attention to the head, the hands and the heart.

What is Your Discipline Policy?

1. Why do you have a policy?
2. How do you define inappropriate behavior?
3. How will you address inappropriate behavior?
4. How will you train your staff?
5. Where can your staff go for immediate help?
6. How will you notify the children and parents of the expectations and the policy?
7. How will you report behavior that is either abusive or results in injury to another?