

Children's Ministry Program at JUBC

Discipline Policy

Updated September 2019

GOAL/PURPOSE: to support the Biblical teaching that families of faith are currently providing and to stand in the gap by teaching the truths of God's word to share the Gospel message through both words and actions with those God Brings into our body of believers.

Deuteronomy 6:5-8 New Living Translation (NLT)

⁵ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ⁸ Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders.

(Much of the information below was taken from directly or adapted from the resource "Intentional Parenting" by Doug and Cathy Fields)

We believe:

1. **Children are valuable to God** and when we welcome a child into our lives, we welcome Jesus.

Mark 9:36-37 New International Version (NIV)

³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

2. **Children are a gift from the Lord** - a gift worth cherishing and one that requires our very best effort.

Psalms 127:3 New Living Translation (NLT)

³ Children are a gift from the LORD;
they are a reward from him

3. Emotionally and spiritually healthy children have **Positive Role Models** in their lives who walk with them, guide them, mentor them, and love on them during their growing up years. ~ Romans 14:13b ~ 1 Corinthians 8:9

We believe: (continued)

4. In the power of encouraging words.

Proverbs 12:18 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹⁸ Careless words stab like a sword,
but the words of wise people bring healing.

5. That **Love and Discipline** go together and that **discipline is a sign of love.**

Proverbs 3:11-12 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹¹ My child, don't reject the LORD's discipline,
and don't be upset when he corrects you.

¹² For the LORD corrects those he loves,
just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights

Proverbs 29:15 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁵ To discipline a child produces wisdom,
but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child.

6. That **Every Child Needs** to laugh, play and have fun while learning the truths of God's word, in a safe, healthy environment with clear boundaries and consequences.

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven.

⁴ A time to cry and a time to laugh.
A time to grieve and a time to dance.

7. In **A Peaceful Environment** where children are seen as unique with varying personalities, characteristics, strengths and needs.

Principles of dealing with challenging behaviours

(Discipline by Choice):

Steps to remember

When dealing with challenging behaviours that threaten the peaceful, fun-loving, learning environment, please be mindful of the following:

- **Discipline without** screaming and yelling, sarcasm, name-calling, disgust, or shaming (take time to calm down first if necessary so that you are **not** disciplining in anger)

Ephesians 6:4 Living Bible (TLB) ⁴ And now a word to you parents. Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather, bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice.

- **Use Words of Encouragement** rather than critical comments

Philippians 4:8 (TLB) ⁸ And now, brothers, as I close this letter, let me say this one more thing: Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about.

- Provide **Warm and Consistent Affection** through life-giving words and meaningful touch

Proverbs 15:1 (NIV) A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

- **Speak Truth** to the child who is displaying the challenging behaviour. Think "What is the most encouraging way to say this?"
- **Enforce Consequences** regardless of the child's response

When Considering Consequences

- **Provide fair consequences** for inappropriate behaviour and unmet expectations. Fair consequences are respectful and intended to help the child better understand the connection between choices and results.
- **Clearly Communicate the Consequence** ahead of time. Many of the challenging behaviours are regular and consistent week after week... the same child displaying the same behavior. Make a plan and have a script ready to address the behavior when it occurs. A script that will give clear expectations and consequences for unmet expectations in the most positive way possible.
 - Example of **negative** instruction: "Stop it! Why are you being so stupid? You're driving me crazy!"
 - Example of **positive** instruction: "I'd like you to stop doing that please. If you choose to continue, then you are choosing to ... (name the consequence that has been previously agreed upon or stated).
- As often as possible, **Ensure That The Consequence Is Connected** to the offense, the inappropriate behaviour, and/or the unmet expectation.
- **Remind The Child** of the clear boundaries, expectations, and consequences. If the child continues to refuse to comply, enforce the consequence.
- Once the consequence has been met take time to **Talk With The Child**. Help the child see their responsibility in what occurred, they had a choice and were responsible for the outcome.
 - Some things that you might ask...
 - What did you do?
 - Was it right or wrong?
 - How could you have handled this better?
 - Next time, what do you think that you should do?
 - What do you need from me to help you meet the expectation?

It is important to remember:

To make a distinction between the choice and the child

To be consistent in responding to a child's choices

To bring out the Spiritual aspect of teaching and training if the child has made a profession of faith

To develop a relationship with the child (take time to get to know the child, what they like, don't like, fears, things that excite them, etc.)

To be specific when encouraging them with the positive things that they have done

Possible steps to dealing with inappropriate or challenging behaviours

(Because each child is unique and has different needs, this is only a suggestion, as each leader gets to know the child and starts to build a relationship with the child, he/she will know better how to address the challenging behaviour):

Step 1:

Proximity - move closer to the child, perhaps put a hand on their shoulder, or give them a look that lets them know that the behavior that they are displaying is inappropriate.

Step 2:

If the behaviour persists, **Speak Quietly But Directly** to the child letting them know the behavioural expectation and the corresponding consequence if the behavior is seen again. Remember that the consequence needs to be fair, doable, and connected to the offense.

Step 3:

If The Behaviour Is Seen Again, move to the implementation stage of the consequence.

Once the consequence has been implemented be sure to have a conversation with the child prior to having the child brought back to join the group. The parents may or may not be informed depending on the severity and frequency of the behaviour.

In extreme circumstances the parents may need to be informed immediately and called on to help intervene. **The "Leader of the Day" or Pastor will be the person to talk to the parents**

Examples of inappropriate Behaviour:

- teasing
- hitting
- poking
- non-compliance

Examples of appropriate consequences:

- missing out on an activity
- sitting away from the group
- parents asked to come, child asked to go back with parents

What We Value

Creative Bible Teaching

The Bible is the most amazing book ever written! And we strive to bring its stories to life through activities and discussions that keep students engaged. We want all students to love God's Word and understand the value of applying it to their lives.

Safety

Safety is one of our highest priorities. That's why you'll receive a unique parent identification number each time you check in. Additionally, every volunteer is screened and participates in a background check.

Fun!

When students have fun at church, they can't wait to come back! And we know they'll have fun each week as they learn about who God is through games, activities, and small groups teaching.

Things to Note

A $\frac{1}{2}$ day of training would be helpful for those involved in children's ministry and a packet for parents would also be helpful...

(FYI...The section below was adapted from the Life Church website)

What to expect on your first visit...

On your first visit you will be greeted by a leader eager to meet your family and you'll learn how our children's ministry works. Because we value safety, we will need some information at that time including: family member's name, child's name and birthday, address, phone number, and any special instructions (allergies, etc.).

How Secure Check-In Works

With our children's ministry, safety is a core value. That's why we have a secure check-in system.

Upon check-in, you'll receive matching identification stickers. Your child will need to wear the name tag portion and you will need to keep the matching tag. After the service, you'll show the leader your matching tag in order for your child to be released from his/her room.

In the event that we need to contact you during the service, we can either text message you or we will share your child's last name and identification code on the screen in the auditorium. We ask that you immediately find a staff member or leader who will direct you to your child's room.