

# Classroom Discipline

## Teaching Adults

This course is primarily for those who teach children or teens. Teaching adults does not usually require any discipline methods. Adults usually are well behaved, listen and wait their turns to contribute to the discussion. One of the problems you may encounter with adults is arguments about scripture. It is important for the teacher of adults to set a climate of acceptance of other views. It is also important that the teacher does not cut down a person. The teacher needs to be diplomatic in handling these disagreements.

If the argument involves an essential doctrine, then the teacher must be prepared to answer the argument from scripture. It is important that the teacher encourage the students to study the scripture for themselves and be Berean. Students should not just accept what a teacher says without checking it out in scripture to see if that is true.

Acts 17:11-12

11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.

The teacher and class should follow this motto:

1. In essentials—unity
2. In non-essentials—love
3. In all things Jesus Christ

The class should not be a place of non-acceptance and arguments. It is okay for the teacher to express his or her views and opinions, but that should be qualified by encouraging study of God's word. Speculation about various things in the scripture should be only permitted with an understanding that it is only speculation. I often explain to my students several possibilities and if asked to speculate on something, I say it is speculation and that they can throw that in the garbage can if they so desire. Our speculations cannot be placed on an equal footing as the word of God.

## Teaching Children and Teens

Classroom discipline is very important. Without control of the students in the classroom, very little learning can take place. The rules concerning adults also should be in place when dealing with teens and children. However, you will also need to enforce classroom rules. Classroom rules need to be enforced for the following reasons:

1. For learning to take place
2. For students to treat each other as God desires
3. For the safety of students
4. For things to be done decently and in order

Discipline Principles to Follow:

1. Students need to know that you care about them.
2. Talk to students respectfully.
3. Provide plenty of interesting activities—if students are bored or if there is time where

nothing is going on, students will get into mischief.

4. You need to be firm but understanding.
5. Use a firm voice
6. Discipline and obeying the rules needs to be consistent.
7. Use humor with your students.
8. Form relationships with teens and children, but do not become their buddies.
9. Post the classroom rules
10. Keep the rules simple and few in number
11. Make sure students know what is expected of them.
12. Start the class with prayer.
13. If students are talking, wait for them to stop or have them stop before you start teaching. Do not talk over them.
14. Have high expectations for your students. Expect them to behave. Let them know what your expectations are.
15. Always have a second person in the room that can help with discipline and emergencies.
16. Do not use threats.
17. If a student will not listen or follow the rules, place them in time out (not teens) or have them removed from the classroom.
18. Have a discipline plan in place. What are the steps and consequences?
19. Use praise for students behaving.
20. Keep length of lesson appropriate for grade level—1 minute for year of age
21. Involve students in lesson with questions and activities.
22. Do not use physical contact or punishments involving physical things in disciplining students. If parent spank their own kids—that is fine. You are not the parent and can get in trouble using physical consequences.
23. Don't pretend to be someone you are not
24. Don't be pretentious
25. Do not talk down to students
26. Value student thoughts and feelings
27. Be an example
28. Do not talk harshly to students
29. Do not use sarcasm
30. Be interesting. Use variety

#### Sample Rules:

1. Keep hands and feet to self or keep in your own space
2. Listen when others are talking
3. Keep everyone safe
4. Respect others
5. Respect property

#### 1-2-3 Magic and other programs for young children

- first time a student breaks a rule—say that is a one
- Second time say that is a two
- Third time is a consequence such as time out or removal from the room.

This must be done matter-of-factly and with no anger. This process must be explained to students and used consistently.