



## Student Behavior Policy Living Water Community Church

### Introduction

The overall goal of our Student Ministry is to serve God by helping our students to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ where they are reading and learning God's Word and serving him in their spheres of influence. Our secondary goal is to provide a safe and exciting place for each student that reinforces what their parents or guardians are teaching them at home. We want our students to learn the value of self-discipline and healthy interaction with other students and adults in group settings. To this end we have developed the following policy that applies to all students who participate in our Student Ministry at Living Water.

### Expectations for our Student Ministry Volunteers

1. Respect the student's parents by: taking responsibility for the supervision of the children during ministry activities; observing the environment and equipment for unsafe situations; not allowing any student to leave the program/classroom early without a parent's permission; reporting any potentially compromising behavior by other Student ministry volunteers to Student Ministry Pastor or Elder Board Member.
2. Respect yourself by: maintaining self control; not allowing a child to take advantage of you; following the prescribed steps for correcting a child's behavior; seeking assistance from other volunteers and the children's ministry coordinator when a child's behavior become counterproductive to the above stated goals.
3. Respect the children by: viewing them as made in the image of God and thus of eternal worth and dignity; being positive in demeanor and word; being consistent in enforcing the behavioral expectations; not using corporal punishment; talking to them quietly and privately about their misconduct; acknowledging and rewarding positive behavior.

### Expectations for our Students

1. Respect those in authority by: cooperating with their instructions; listening attentively; only talking in large groups when you are asked to by a Student Ministry volunteer.

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2. Respect yourself by: remaining in your classroom for the duration of the program (with the exception of a bathroom) and participating in group activities; refraining from profanity and unwholesome talk.
3. Respect your peers by: keeping your hands to yourself; speaking kindly to others; not distracting or leading others from meeting expectations (talking, cell phones, etc).

## **Responding to incorrect behavior by Students**

1. General Notice
  - a. The Student Ministry Leader will review the expectations for the children at the beginning of each large group session or on a regular basis.
  - b. If a student needs to stop what they are doing while in a large group, the Student Ministry volunteers will signal or verbally remind the student. For example: placing hand on shoulder or making eye contact
  - c. If in a small group, one or more students are being uncooperative or disruptive, the student ministry leader will make eye contact with the specific student(s), restate the expectations, and give a general warning.
2. Specific Warning
  - a. Take the student to the side or back of the room to explain his wrong behavior, tell him how he is to act, and warn him that the next time you speak to him, he will be removed from participation.
  - b. If in a large group the student may be moved to sit near an adult or to a place away from distraction.
3. Removal from Group (all Zero Tolerance offenses)
  - a. If Notice and Warning is not sufficient to alter the student's behavior then the student will be removed from the classroom/group, and the parent will be contacted by a Guardian or volunteer to come and get their child. Unless otherwise discussed with the parent, the student will be welcomed back at the next ministry activity.
  - b. For students that have ongoing trouble in our program we will request the student/family meet with our Pastor of Student Ministries or other volunteer to discuss a mutual approach to help the student develop self-control.
  - c. One to One sessions with volunteer/staff may be necessary to develop self-control during student ministry meetings.
  - d. The church leadership reserves the right to suspend a student from the ministry activities for an amount of time deemed best for the student and overall program.

4. Zero Tolerance Infractions- (Keep it Legal, Moral, and Logical) Be in control of...
  - a. Mind- Things you choose to do- bringing weapons or drugs, other illegal activities, deliberate property damage, leaving the property
  - b. Body- Physical aggression or fighting, sexual activity or sexual harassment
  - c. Mouth- bullying, threatening, intentional vulgar language
  
5. Miscellaneous
  - a. Physical discipline is not allowed by the student ministry volunteers. However, the use of physical restraint to prevent a child from doing something dangerous or harmful to themselves or others may be necessary in some instances.