



# Prince Chapel Children's Church Ministry

## Behavior Guidelines & Discipline Policy

*"Helping Children Grow in their Relationship with Christ"*

Matthew 19:14

The word "discipline" means to make a disciple. This involves teaching a child to live properly before God and in all aspects of life. At Prince Chapel, we want children to internalize the Biblical principles we teach and to grow in their personal relationship with God. Only the Holy Spirit accomplishes a change in heart. However, structure, boundaries, and consequences help develop habits of discipline. We believe that when students know what is expected of them, we are able to create an environment where students can grow and exercise their faith.

### ***Behavior Guidelines***

Our goal is to create a respectful, fun environment where parents partner with ministry leaders to provide an exciting spiritual experience for their children. These guidelines and policies are intended to provide the structure and expectations needed to create an environment where all children can

safely enjoy Prince Chapel's children's church ministry programming. Children are expected to follow these behavior guidelines at all times:

**Be respectful of the teacher, assistants, volunteers, classmates, and self.**

"Here is my command. Love each other, just as I have loved you." John 15:12

**Treat others the way you want to be treated.**

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you. Matthew 7:12

**Use kind words.**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

## ***Discipline Policy***

Appropriate behavior is defined as a cooperative spirit on the part of the child. Inappropriate behavior is defined as any action that chronically disrupts the learning process or is an act of willful disrespect. Inappropriate behavior will be addressed by a children's church leader and will be handled in a manner as outlined in the Discipline Policy.

If redirection of behavior and restatement of the expectations do not correct the misbehavior, the following steps will be taken.

### 1st occurrence = Verbal Warning

The child will be separated from other children and verbally made aware of the inappropriate behavior by a children's ministry leader. The leader will clearly define to the child how to alter the behavior so that it is acceptable.

### 2nd occurrence = Time Out

The leader or volunteer will separate the child from the class. The teacher will remind the child of the inappropriate behavior. The child will then be required to sit separate from the rest of the class, but in full view of the leader, for a period of time equal to the child's age in minutes.

### 3rd occurrence = Speak with Children's Church Leader

One of the Children's Church Ministry Leaders will speak with the child in the hallway or vestibule, explaining the consequences for continued poor behavior. The child will be reminded that their parents will be notified.

## Parent Involvement

### Parent Notification

The Teacher will make the decision whether or not a parent needs to be notified during service, after the service/at pick-up, or via phone call later in the day. Our goal is to talk to the parent in a private location, in person and after the service when possible. Parents will be notified every time their child's behavior results in their removal from standard activities. A meeting with the parent, child, and Teacher may be requested to discuss solutions. If steps 1-3 are a common occurrence, the Teacher may ask the parent to attend

children's church and/or events with their child for a determined period of time.

**Attention Parents!**

Placing your child into any of Prince Chapel CME Church Children's Ministry activities signifies your acceptance of this policy. Only discipline as outlined in this policy may be administered as deemed necessary by the Children's Church ministry staff. We encourage you to join our Children's Church ministry as we partner with parents to discipline—and disciple—the children God has entrusted to us!

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

BEHAVIOR GUIDELINE AND DISCIPLINE STATEMENT OF  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

I have received and read a copy of Prince Chapel CME Church Children's Church Ministries Behavior Guidelines and Discipline Procedures, and understand the importance of the material that has been outlined. I agree to assist in every way possible to make sure that my child is abiding by the guidelines that have been established.

I understand that Behavior Guidelines and Discipline Policies may be modified, and that any guideline may be amended, revised, or eliminated with the approval of Pastor Goldmon and will be distributed as such.

\_\_\_\_\_

Print your name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Sign your name