

# Student Discipline

This is a guide for what you can do when a student not following rules or guidelines and needs to be corrected. We want to create a helpful environment for you and for students! If students are constantly breaking the rules, it can be frustrating for volunteers and we don't want an unruly student to cause you to get burned out with serving.

1. If there is a student who is constantly pushing boundaries or breaking the rules, the first thing that I would suggest you do, step one, is to try to, in the context of whatever you're doing, whether you're playing a game or you're in a small group discussion or doing an activity, just try to gently correct the student. Ask them to stop, explain what they're doing wrong, and see if they respond that way. If the behavior from the student continues, then you move to step two.
2. Step two is you pull the student or students privately off to the side and have a separate conversation with them, where, again, you need to be clear about what the expectation is, what they are doing that is going against the expectation, and telling them what you need them to do, what they need to change. And in that conversation with that student or students, you can say, hey, I really don't want to get Joe or Rachel involved, but if you guys don't respond to this challenge that I'm giving you right now, I will need to get Joe and Rachel involved. Please, throw Rachel and I's name around as the bad guys, if that's helpful.
3. And then step three, if the kids do not respond, is please come talk to me or talk to Rachel, and then we will step in and get involved. And we will do our best to back you up, whatever you've said. And we, when Rachel and I talk to the student, we will threaten step four, which is we would say, hey, here's the expectation. Here's what we need you to do. I'm going to give you a chance to make changes, but if you can, I will call your parents and get your parents involved. I really don't want to have to do that, but I will. So we'll throw out the threat of getting parents involved. So step three is bringing Rachel and I in on the situation.
4. Step four, if it needs to get to that point, we will get kids' parents involved. But we want to give their parent, we want to give them a chance to respond and step up and improve before we get their parents involved
5. Step five would involve temporarily removing a child from the ministry. That has happened on very rare occasions, but it rarely gets to that point. So I just share that with you so that you've got a game plan for how to deal with difficult students. Rachel and I are here to back you up. And this is all so that everybody can have a great environment and a good experience in middle school ministry.