

Heritage Bible Church Child Discipline Policy
17 October, 2014

There will be times when a child won't follow your instructions and will be disruptive. Our **1st step** of discipline is to graciously warn the child their behavior is wrong and needs to cease. The **2nd step** is to ask a helper to sit by the child to encourage them, as quietly as possible, to mend their behavior. If the child persists in improper behavior, the **3rd step** is to place them in a time out (3-5 minutes) away from the other kids (but near enough they can still see & hear). It is best if one of the helpers does this to attract the least amount of attention from the rest of the group. If it seems appropriate, the child can be placed in more than one time out if the first one seemed to improve their behavior for awhile. Warn the child that further improper behavior may require their parent to come. If these steps fail, our **4th step** and last resort is to send a helper to ask the child's parent to come. Hopefully this last step will not be necessary; however, if it is, please explain to the parent our policy, let them know we're NOT trying to embarrass them, and let them know their child is still welcome in coming weeks. If the last step is necessary, please let the ministry's coordinator know. This will allow the coordinator to know if a child has repeat problems so he/she can talk with the parents to work out an appropriate plan. While HBC believes corporeal discipline is biblical, we believe this should be done by the child's parents if they deem it necessary. Under no circumstances will HBC children's Workers use corporeal punishment on any children. Note this provision does not prevent them from using corporeal punishment on their own children if they deem it appropriate. It is recommended that such discipline be done privately. See the "Heritage Bible Church Child Protection Policy" for definition of *Workers* and their responsibilities.