



DISCIPLINE THAT DISCIPLES

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Executive Director

ORU_{ef}

Thank you. Greetings from ORU, President Wilson, Dr. Boyd, and your family at ORU.

God has blessed us with the opportunity to share together and promote Christian education for many years now, and it is such a pleasure to be with you and share this beautiful time that we have together.

I'd like to ask you a question today. When you walk into your classroom, what is your goal? We have Spanish teachers, English teachers, science teachers, and every kind of teacher in this room. I'm going to guess that when we enter our classrooms, we have things that we are hoping to accomplish.

I was a music teacher. I remember standing at the door, greeting my students one afternoon as they came in. In my mind, I was thinking about my lesson plan, and I was going to try out a new idea I had for an activity. I was excited to introduce it to my students. The last student walked in, and I closed the door. As I turned, I saw one boy push another boy into the shelf that had all of my rhythm instruments. Everyone heard them crash to floor, and the boy on the floor was crying and holding his head.

I wish I could say that I responded with the fruit of the spirit, but I have a confession to make here in front of you all. I was not patient, and I was not kind. I was angry.

I was angry at the boy who pushed him. I was angry that all of my instruments were all over the floor. I was angry that the child's head was hurt. I was angry that my lesson had been interrupted,

and at that moment, I was not in control of my emotions. I raised my voice. I berated the young man who pushed him. I told the class how frustrated I was that now I was going to have to clean up this mess. I told them how I had worked diligently to prepare this lesson and now it had been ruined.

As a confession today, this was not my finest teaching moment. After my flesh had finished saying all that I had to say, I looked out at my class and their eyes were wide. There were some with tears. The child who had been hurt was trying to quietly pick up the instruments, and I immediately regretted this loss of control.

Everything was quiet. I could hear my own breathing, and in that still small voice where only the Holy Spirit can speak, I hear Him ask me, "Are you finished?" I went over and checked on the young man who had been hurt to make sure he was okay. I started to pick up the instruments myself. One of the children who had done nothing wrong choked back tears and told me she was sorry. The Lord continued with His questions, "What did you accomplish just now?"

After I put away the last tambourine, I walked to the front of the room which was still very quiet. I looked my students in their eyes and said, "I'm sorry. What you just saw was not a good example of how to react when someone is frustrated. I was wrong to raise my voice, and I commit to you that I will not do that again."

When the class was over, the Lord wanted to continue the conversation. I already felt badly, and didn't want to continue. But thankfully, the grace of God would not let me go. I heard the Lord speak into my heart that day, "Chris, you just made that discipline about you when I have called you disciple these children." He began to convict me about how I had used intimidation to bring correction. He showed me that every sentence I had used was focused on me. I was making discipline about my class and my lesson and myself, instead of making discipline about helping disciple my students into who they are meant to be.

I kneeled behind my desk that day, and I repented before the Lord and asked His forgiveness. The prayer from heart was, "I must decrease, and You must increase."

EXTERNAL VS DISCIPLE

External Discipline

Conform outwardly to a mold
Focuses on extrinsic motivation
Threat of punishment affects change

Discipleship

Transform from within the heart
Focuses on intrinsic motivation
Seeks change at the heart level



I don't know if anyone in this room has ever found themselves in a position like this, but today I'd like to just make a few points about the difference that we can make as Christian school leaders.

To start our today I'd like to make a clear determination on what was happening that day. I was using external "discipline" to make sure that my students behaved so I could get my lesson done. Instead of focusing on my students, I was focusing on my being able to get the lesson done instead of the most important part of my class, the students that God had placed in front of me.

I'm afraid that sometimes we as teachers and administrators get discipline out of alignment. We focus on how to manipulate behaviors. We create systems that threaten punishment or try to focus students on external rewards.

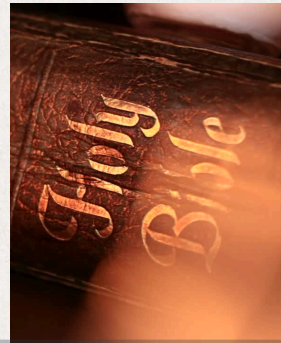
Then I look at scripture and God explains that man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.

Conformity is a type of social influence that involves a change in belief or behavior in order to fit in with a group. But I believe that God has called us to do more with students than help them fit into a social group.

I believe that God wants us to see as He sees, to look at the hearts of our students and disciple them to be pleasing to Him and to bring glory to the Lord. That doesn't happen through intimidation, threats or manipulation. That happens through a transformational process, from the inside out.

ROMANS 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.



Romans 12:2 says,

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world..." even if that good cultural behavior or helping students be "good".

He says, "but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Why? So we will be able to test and approve what the will of God is. Not what I want or what society wants or what culture wants, but what God says is His "good, pleasing, and perfect will."

Helping students grow in discipleship is not about helping them be "good kids." It is about helping them develop the discipline and sensitivity to align their lives with the who God calls them to be.

Can I say that some of the students in your class are called by God to have strong personalities and stand up against what everyone considers "normal"? Do you know there are students in your class who are called by God to not bend or waiver when they are under pressure? There are students in your school who debate ideas and cultural philosophies because God has placed that inside of their hearts to question everything.

My daughter has always had a strong will. When she would do something wrong, we would discipline her, and she would have such inner strength that looked like rebellion to us. There was one time when my wife was punishing her when the Lord spoke that he had placed that strong will in her and that we were not to break her strong will, but to teach her how to surrender and use

that strength for God's glory. I can't say that we have done that perfectly through her life. She still is strong, but now she is strong at standing up for God's Word and will. We had to understand that we were stewards of God's child, and we were not to conform her to our expectations but to His purpose.



FOCUS ON THE BIGGER PICTURE

- Our goal is to move students toward a greater degree of spirit-control which leads to a greater measure of self-control.
- As a result of the Fall, there is a battle between that which is carnal and spiritual. We begin to put off the old man with his deeds, and we put on the new man who is renewed.
- Salvation initiates a process by which we turn from our selfish and sinful ways and begin to walk on the path of righteousness. We focus on the process instead of the destination.

We do this by focusing on the bigger picture. My goal is not to have a teacher-controlled classroom, but to have a Spirit-led classroom. Therefore, my goal with students is not control or manipulate their behavior, but to lead them in such a way that they allow the Holy Spirit to exercise His fruit of self-control.

We recognize that ever since the Fall there is a battle between that which is of the spirit and that which is of the flesh. In guiding students, we create a recognition that there is a war between our natural, carnal self and the new man that God has called us to be. Scripture teaches that it is our constant effort to put off that old man and his deeds and to put on the new man that has been renewed and empowered by the parakletos, the Holy Spirit, who comes alongside of us as a Helper, One who acts on our behalf, to bring change to our hearts.

When we are born again, a process is initiated that says, I have rejected the sinful nature that I was born with, and I have put that on the cross with Jesus, and I have accepted a new life, a new heart, and a new way of doing things.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 -



Scripture says that if I am in Christ, if my student is in Christ, he is a new creation. He said, the old has gone, and the new has come.

If our students aren't born again, then we start there, but if they are born again, we have to disciple them into understanding that they don't have to live in their old ways anymore. The enemy wants to convince us that nothing has changed, and that we are still the same as we were. My Bible says differently, and that is true discipline, when I can know in my mind and in my heart that I don't have to think the way I used to think, or do the things I used to do, or be who I was before.

Maybe you've even given into this lie. When a student dedicates his life to the Lord and you don't see enough change, as believers, do we begin to question their salvation? OR do we disciple them to help them know, "the old has gone, the new has come." You are not what you were before. You are a new creation!

SUBMISSION TO HIS LORDSHIP

Submission requires that we lower ourselves, and humanity does not yield easily.

Surrender of the mind, will, and emotions is a process of putting off the old man and taking on the new.

How does the flesh surrender itself?
We must be willing to be made willing.



Discipleship says that there is a throne in each of our hearts. When our students receive the gift of salvation, they step off of the throne of their hearts, and they allow Jesus to sit there and have His Lordship.

I wish that my humanity wouldn't try to keep taking the throne back. You know what I mean? To allow Him to sit on the throne of my heart means that I am lowering myself below Him and He can do what He wants, even if I don't agree with it.

When I bowed at my desk that day, I was lowering myself. I had stepped back on the throne, and God in His mercy said, "You surrendered this place to me, and I am Lord."

We have to help students remember that we daily surrender our mind, will, and emotions to Him. This is part of sanctification.

There was a Welsh man by the name of Rees Howells who was in prayer one day, asking the Lord to do a great work through his life. The Lord said, "If I come in as God, you must go out." He was saying, only one can sit on this throne in your heart, and you have to make a decision. "Do you want me there or do you want to sit there?" Rees wrestled with this, because he knew if he made this decision, that he could no longer rule his own life. If the Lord asked a thing of him, he would be expected to surrender that thing. There is a cost in discipleship. In the battle between his flesh and his spirit, he cried out to God, "How can self be willing to give up self?" And the Lord spoke back to him, "If you can't be willing, would you like Me to help you? Are you willing to be made willing?" And Rees offered that place of surrender in response, "Lord, I am willing."

This is the great battle that rages in you and in me, but it is also the battle that is fought in our students' hearts and minds. God asks each of them to give up your self-nature and surrender it to Jesus?

How old do you have to be to surrender this way? 30? 40? Or could 5-year-old child in your class be willing to surrender? Or a 11-year-old? There is no junior Holy Spirit. Surrender happens at any age.

COME, FOLLOW ME

I see you better than you look right now; I see how you look in the future.

Jesus called his students by name from where they were into what they could be.

Our discipline and words plant seeds inside of students' hearts that will bear eternal fruit.



You see, we have to hear the Savior's calling for each of our students as He will reveal it. We have to make the choice, will we see each of them as they look right now, or will we see as Jesus sees them, how they look in the future.

He is calling each of them by name. Just like He called Peter, a frustrated fisherman. He said, "I see you better than you look right now, Peter, I see how you look in the future." Right now, you may be smelling of fish just trying to make a living, but if you follow Me, I will make you a fisher of men.

I wonder what would change in your classroom on Monday morning, if you chose to look at each of them as Jesus sees their future selves. I wonder if your discipline would change. What would happen if you decided to plant seeds of hope and destiny with your words.

ISAIAH 50:4

The Lord God has given Me the tongue of disciples, so that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.



Isaiah said it this way, "The Lord God has given me the tongue of disciples, so that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple." Do you have the tongue that makes disciples. Do you know how to speak into a weary soul and sustain them? Is my ear open to hear as He hears? Are my eyes open to see as He sees? Can I see His destiny and purpose in each of my students?

Or do I just see them as they are right now? Do I limit them by their behavior in this moment?

SPEAK TO STUDENT IDENTITY

II Corinthians 5:17

You are a new creature in Christ: old things have passed away, behold all things are new.

Romans 6:11

You are dead to sin and alive unto righteousness

I Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Ephesians 2:10

You are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Jeremiah 1:5

Before He formed you in the womb, He knew you, and before you were born He consecrated you...

I Corinthians 6:19-20

Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God. You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. You glorify God in your body.

You can speak into children's identity. You can prophesy something into being. What changes inside of a student when they hear that they are new creature in Christ and that everything about them can be new.

What happens when I help them understand that as believers we can be dead to sin and alive to righteousness.

What if I were to look into a child's eyes, past their minds and into their spirits and speak, "You are the workmanship of the Lord. He doesn't make junk. He made you for good works. In fact, He already planned them before you were born, and He is making a way for you to walk in those good works."

When you were inside of your mother's womb, He already know you. He already had a plan for your life, and you can trust the one who knows your end from your beginning.

PARTNER WITH WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Conviction of Sin	John 16:8
Quickens our Understanding	Job 32:8
Provides Revelation Knowledge	Romans 8:2
Makes Learning Happen	John 14:26
Transmits Wisdom	I Corinthians 2:7-10
Gives Grace to Succeed	II Corinthians 1:12

Brothers and sisters, we become partners with the work of the Holy Spirit.

Can I convict a person of their sin? No. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. Can I be a yielded vessel of the Holy Spirit who can convict of sin? Yes!

The great revivalist, Smith Wigglesworth, once was riding in a train car and began to pray. Everyone in the train car was loudly talking and distracted. Smith went to wash his hands, and when he came back, a man told him, "Sir, you have convinced me of my sin." and he fell on his knees right there. The Holy Spirit filled the train, and everyone in the train car fell to their knees, convicted of their sins. What would it be like if the Lord stepped into your classroom that way?

How many times do we try to help students understand their wrong ways through words when the Holy Spirit is the One who quickens our understanding. He provides revelation knowledge. He makes learning happen. He translates wisdom, and He gives grace to succeed.

We have a Helper! To each of us is given a measure of the Holy Spirit, and we should partner with His work. Holy Spirit, do what I cannot do. Do what only You can do!

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE



Foolishness



Willful
Disobedience



Immaturity



Misdirected
Response to Needs

He is the one who helps us understand the difference. Sometimes our students are being foolish. Sometimes they are willfully disobeying us. But other times, they are just acting in immaturity. How do we discern the different?

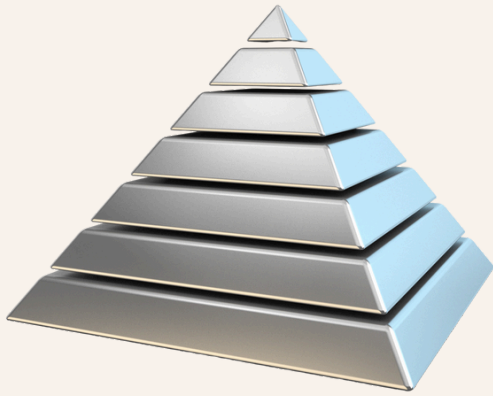
Many of these things can be discerned if we take a minute and recognize that everything that our students do is not intentional rebellion.

When a child is foolish, they are using their reasoning skills to make wrong decision. Have you ever had a child in your class do that? Sometimes they will even argue, because in their own minds, they have reasoned incorrectly. When this is happening, we have to save a fool from his foolish ways and help him recognize that foolishness will always lead to their ruin.

When a child is willfully disobedient, they are making a decision to do opposite of what they know to do. This is not to be confused with forgetfulness or immaturity. In this situation, there is an intentional response that says, I know the right thing to do, but I have decided not to do it. The Bible says to this one, it is sin. This results in appropriate consequences that help redirect the behavior. It is best, if the consequences align with natural consequences, but sometime external consequences will save the child from sin.

Other times, a child's behavior is a result of immaturity. Is immaturity sin? No. Immaturity can be developmental, not knowing the right thing to do, or the inability to see the resulting impact that the behavior has on others.

Then there are behaviors that are misdirected responses to other needs.



MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

- 5 - Self-Actualization (Most Complex)
- 4 - Esteem
- 3 - Social
- 2 - Safety
- 1 - Physiological (Most Basic)

You may be aware of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. In this classification, Maslow has researched and helps us understand that everyone of us, but especially our students has certain needs that must be met before we can achieve "self-actualization." The goal is that we want to lead a child to see the potential of what they can be, ultimately what God has called them to be.

However, in order for that need to be met, other needs must be in place. First, he says the most basic, physiological needs must be met: food, water, shelter. Next, our children have to feel safe. They need to have predictability, stability, and insulation from threats.

After that, there social needs, friendship, love, affection, inclusion. When those needs have been met, they can begin to have their esteem needs met through self-respect, independence, and achievement.

I encourage you, if you have a child acting inappropriately, consider which needs may not be met yet in their lives and help fill in the gaps. Don't keep punishing them or talking down to them because they have needs. Be someone who can have the right word at the right moment with the right idea.



SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Leveled Discipline Model

Level 1 - Minor Infractions, usually foolishness or maturity (lunch or after school detention)

Level 2 - Willful disobedience and moral issues (after school detention, Saturday School, or in-school suspension)

Level 3 - Moral serious moral failure (multi-day in-school suspension or more depending on severity)

Level 4 - Prohibitive (suspension or expulsion)

Part of helping children feel safe is having a set of clear expectations and predictability in how behavior is disciplined.

One of the ways that I found to help with this was by implementing a leveled discipline model. In this model, there are specific consequences for children's foolishness and intentional disobediences.

Not all infractions deserve the same level of consequence. This is how I used this model.

SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Level I

- Minor classroom disruption.
- Dress code violation
- Failure to obey classroom rules
- Loud or disorderly conduct while in hallways and restroom
- Failure to participate in class
- Eating in the classroom
- Failure to bring book and materials to class
- Chewing gum
- Misconduct in chapel
- Cell phone/electronic device usage during school hours
- Public displays of affection (hugging, kissing, holding hands)
- Tardiness to class
- Using cosmetics in class





SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Level 2

- Repetition of Level 1 offenses
- Being in unauthorized places on campus
- Vulgar or profane language, written or spoken
- Out of class without a hall pass or written permission
- Insubordination
- Disrespect towards faculty-staff (rolling of eyes, talking back, etc.)
- Verbal altercation with another student
- Improper use of telephone
- Lying
- Excessive in-between class tardies, or morning tardies.

SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Level 3

- Vandalism
- Fighting
- Traffic violation on campus
- Sexual harassment
- Bullying
- Cheating and Plagiarism
- Alteration of grade/report card
- Skipping a class or school
- Forgery or Gambling
- Leaving campus without proper permission or improper check-out
- Visiting inappropriate websites
- Assault – in anger, a student places his/her hands/body on another student
- Indecent behavior
- Disrespectful through the use of profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures toward students, parents, teachers or other school employees on or off campus, to include social media platforms
- Damaging school property or property of other students and teachers





SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Level 4

- Committing extortion, coercion, or blackmail; that is obtaining money or other object of value from an unwilling person or forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force
- Engaging in inappropriate physical or sexual contact disruptive to other students of the school environment
- Engaging in offensive conduct of a sexual nature; whether verbal or physical, which may include requests for sending, posting, or sharing inappropriate pictures of a sexual nature, sexual favors or other intimidating sexual conduct directed toward another individual
- Engaging in inappropriate social media use by posting, or condoning, content that is sexual nature, immodest, vulgar, obscene, unlawful or any behaviors contrary to the CCS code of conduct.
- Any verbal or physical assault on faculty/administration/or student, or the destruction of their personal property

THE PERSON IN THE MIRROR



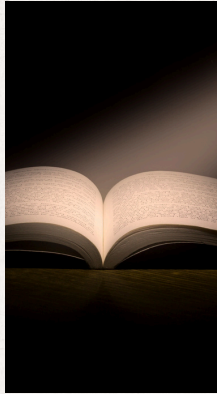
- Luke 6:40, "A student when he is fully trained will be like his teacher."
- Paul instructed Timothy, "Act like me."
- Character Check
 - Pride
 - Anger
 - Bitterness
 - Immorality
 - Guilt

As we bring a conclusion to this session, I want to talk about the person in the mirror. One of the most sobering scriptures for teachers is found in Luke 6:40, "A student when he is fully trained will be like his teacher." When you look in the mirror what do you see?

Can you be like Paul when he instructed Timothy? "If you want to be like Christ, just act like me."

I hope that every one of us in this room, every day, are being transformed into the image of Christ. I pray that we lay aside pride, and we embrace humility. I pray that you don't make the mistake that I made in that music class, acting in anger, but that you embrace meekness and peace. I pray that you don't allow bitterness to rule in your heart, but that you choose to forgive and forget. Our bitterness is like an infection that can be passed on to others. I pray that you guard your heart from immorality and embrace the purity and holiness that reflects who He is. I pray that you will not allow guilt to guide your life, but that you will walk in every freedom that the Lord provides.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS



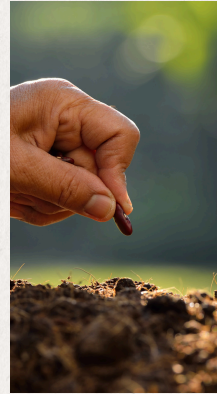
Word of Wisdom



Word of Knowledge



Prophecy



Faith



Healing

I pray that you will desire and pursue the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit makes available to us. When you don't have the wisdom to give in the moment, that you would ask Him for a word of wisdom that is past your mind. May you have a word of knowledge that gives you understanding beyond what you could possibly know, because He knows everything.

I wish above them all that you would prophesy. I don't want anyone in the room to think this is too difficult. If you can hear the Lord's voice in the Word of God or in your heart, you can repeat it. That is all prophecy is: hear God, speak what He says. I pray that you would ask Him for a gift of faith. When you don't see how a student can change, that God will give you the faith of a mustard seed that will move mountains on behalf of the children He has given you in your classroom. Today, we ask for gift of healing. That we would see physical healings in our classrooms, emotional healings, academic and mental healings. God, do it in the way that only You can.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS



Discernment



Miracles



"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, especially that you would prophecy." I Corinthians 14:1

God, give us discernment. Help us see what You see. Help us know the difference of foolishness, willful disobedience, immaturity, or needs that must be met.

And Jesus, walk through our classrooms. Help our students to reach out and touch the hem of Your garment as You pass by. Bring physical, emotional, social, academic, and spiritual healings. Make sure the children know that You still do miracles today.

I'm reminded about a tenth-grade student in one of the schools where I served. Several students had come to the office to report that there was a hole in the wall above the urinal, and it looked like someone punched it. I went into the boy's bathroom to check, and it was definitely from a fist. Immediately, the Holy Spirit gave me a word of knowledge. He told me who did it and that it was from frustration, not anger. I went to the tenth grade English class and explained that I had walked into the bathroom and seen the hole in the wall. I felt the Lord prompt me to say that I knew who had done it, because the Holy Spirit wanted to minister to the need. I also wanted the person to take personal responsibility for the action and come to talk to me about it.

Then I went back to the office to pray. I asked the Holy Spirit to bring conviction and that he would not be able to resist that conviction. After another hour the young man came to my office in tears. "How did you know?" he asked. I told him, the Lord will leave the 99 to come after the one. Today, you are the one He is after. There across the desk, he shared his frustration with his earthly father. He talked about problems that they had, and that he felt rejected. Sometimes the frustration just built up so much, that it came out physically.

I listened and the Lord spoke a question, "Would you be willing to give that hurt to the Lord and put it on His cross?" He didn't know if he could. He had held on to the hurt for a long time.

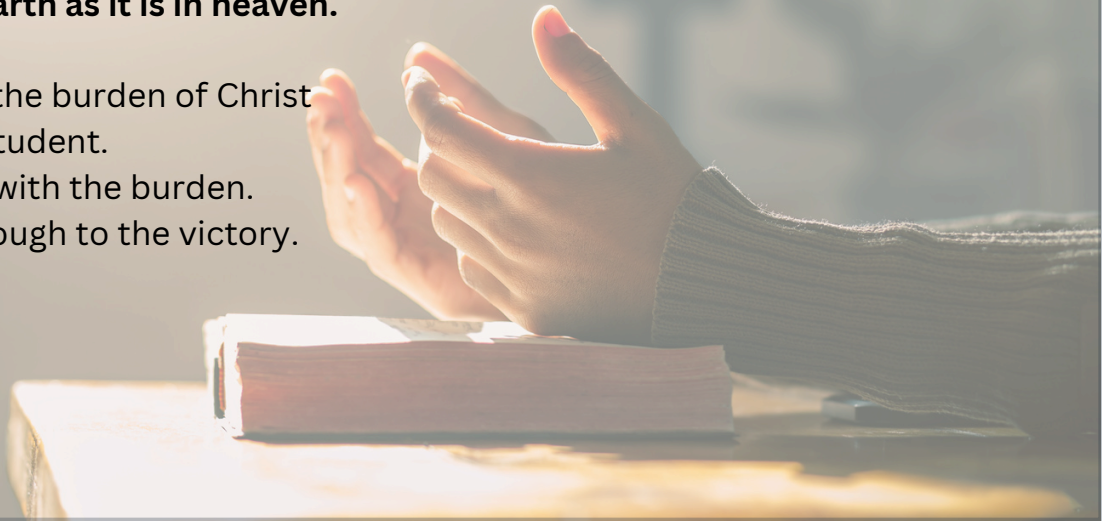
That Saturday, he had a consequence. He spent his day off at school with the maintenance man, helping repair the hole in the wall. He had to pay from his own money for the materials.

But the greater discipleship happened in the prayer we prayed together. "Lord, I don't know if I am willing to forgive, but I'm willing to be made willing." That day, he stepped off of the throne of his heart, and asked Jesus to sit there. There was not alter music. There was no condemnation or manipulation. It was quiet. It was holy. It was discipleship. It was surrender. God did a work that day, that only He could do.

INTERCESSION AND PRAYER

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

1. Take on the burden of Christ for the student.
2. Identify with the burden.
3. Pray through to the victory.





GALATIANS 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Brothers and sisters, today, I invite you to a work that is deeper than external discipline. Whether you are called to five-year-olds or fifteen-year-olds, He wants to be Lord. I encourage you, no I beg you, ask the Lord to do His work through you.

Invite the Holy Spirit to come alongside you and do the word that only He can do, and in your classroom may the fruit of the spirit be love, joy, peace. May your classroom be filled with patience, kindness, and goodness. May your students have the evidence of gentleness and self-control.

I ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.



THANK YOU

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