

## The Red Light, Green Light 1,2,3 Method of Discipline

As leaders of the WARRIORS each one of us is very conscious of the small amount of time we have to minister to your children. Because the ages range from four years old to eleven, with an average class size of 10, maintaining order is paramount. We have each agreed that the following method is the most effective and positive way to achieve this.

### The Way It Works

1. A large poster of a traffic light will remain on the wall from week to week.
2. Each child will have a clothespin with their name on it.
3. The goal is for all the clothespins to stay on the bottom of the poster, "off" of the traffic light.
4. In the event that a child does not heed the teacher's instructions (be it "no running" and he/she continues to run, "no talking" and he/she continues to talk, etc.) the teacher will calmly ask the child to move their clothespin to green.
5. As the class progresses, if the child's behavior and response to the teacher's requests continues to be negative, the teacher will point to the traffic light and he/she will have to move their pin to yellow.
6. In the rare event that a child's behavior does not improve and they reach red, the teacher will calmly tell the child, "I know you can do better next week, but for today, your Mom (Dad or guardian) will have to come down and get you".
7. The parent will then be notified discretely, in the sanctuary, by the assistant, as previously discussed.
8. Children who finish the class without reaching red will get a sticker for their sticker card. After getting 5 stickers on their card, they will have earned the opportunity to choose a prize from the treasure chest.

**As leaders we like this method of discipline for several reasons:**

- It accommodates different learning styles (auditory and visual).
- It allows the teacher to maintain control of the classroom.
- As children see the teacher implementing the steps, they will learn boundaries and know that their choices have consequences.
- The children will know what to expect each week, even as the teacher changes, because the rules in the classroom and consequences for inappropriate behavior will be consistent week to week.
- A firm loving environment is established where children can learn and grow in their walk with the Lord.
- Positive reinforcement is given as the teacher promises to pray for the dismissed child and encourages him/her that they can do better next week. (Start with a clean slate!)
- Children are rewarded for good behavior (staying off red), with a sticker on their card and are given an incentive to keep up the good behavior to earn a prize after collecting five stickers.
- And last but not least, "teacher burnout" is avoided as support is received from the parents/guardians in the children's lives.

We hope this information brings clarity and not confusion.  
Please see Val with any questions or concerns you may have regarding  
**"Red Light, Green Light, 1,2,3"**

Thank you and God bless you and your child(ren)