#### HOW TO HANDLE DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS

1. **Let the child know that you love him.**

Pray for this child during the week. Practice real concern for the child. The child will recognize it.

1. **Establish clear expectations.**

If your group is really struggling, you might want to write your expectations down and read them every week before you begin. Have no more than five and keep them very simple. Always begin with stating the main purpose for coming to Kingdom Quest, and continue with expectations for behavior. Examples are “Keep your hands to yourself” and “Listen when others are speaking.” Phrase these expectations in positives and not negatives such as “*Don’t* do this,” or “*Don’t* do that.”

1. **State what will happen when the expectations are met and when they are not met.**

Explain to the kids that when these expectations are met the entire group has a better experience. You may even provide a small reward or token as rewards. Also be clear that when the expectation is not met that there will be consequences such as not receiving the reward or losing the privilege of being part of the group.

1. **Give rewards in a consistent manner.**

Be consistent in praising the behavior that you would like to see the children demonstrate.

1. **Give consequences in a consistent manner.**

For example: “The first time you choose not to listen and choose to disrupt others, I will ask you to sit next to me so that I can remind you to control yourself. If you choose again to do this behavior, then you will be asked to sit with the shepherd’s coach for five minutes. If you still choose not to be a cooperating member of the group, I will talk to your parents at the end of Kingdom Quest.”

1. **Use the resources of the team.**

The role of the shepherd’s coach is to help with special discipline problems. Work together in managing children’s behavior. Also communicate with the parents and ask for their help to ensure the child’s cooperation. Oftentimes the parents will need help in basic parenting skills. Refer them to a parenting class your church offers or one offered in the Christian community.