

I. What is LOGOS?

Over a period of several years, numbers of individual churches scattered throughout the country have conducted a weekday Christian education program for young people in grade school, middle school, and high school called “LOGOS.” This program has included a Bible Study hour, a Worship Skills (choir) hour, a Recreation Crafts hour and a Family (dinner) hour.

LOGOS leaders have come to believe through experience that the LOGOS program provides an unparalleled vehicle for Christian education during the weekday hours. Logos spreads the experience over a several hour span. It includes such activities as those done in summer camp and Bible School programs.

LOGOS does not replace other programs of Christian Education in the Church. Instead, because of the new extent and quality of the relationships developed by the program, the other Church programs are enhanced, extended, and improved.

II. The Purposes of LOGOS

To create an understanding and desire for accepting Christ as lord and personal Savior;

To develop intelligent, active and loyal membership and leadership in the church;

To give worthwhile study, wholesome recreation and opportunities for service-all bound up in a true Christian context;

And to develop the kind of Christians who are able and willing to communicate their faith and to assume personal responsibility in assisting the building of God’s Kingdom on earth.

III. The Standards of LOGOS

As a member of the association LOGOS churches, Zion United Church of Christ will maintain certain basic standards of procedure in administrating the LOGOS program:

- The age level in the program will be youth in the first through twelfth grades.
- Proclaiming the Gospel will be done through Bible Study, Worship Skills, crafts and recreational activities and a dinner hour.
- The curriculum used will be that which has been developed by the United Christ of Christ and other materials as identified.
- Our pastor will actively participate in the program.
- There will be 21 sessions during the 2008-2009 program year.

- The program will be supported primarily through tuition payments and donations.

IV. Explanation of Parent Participation

The LOGOS Program enables parents to fulfill a portion of the basic vows required of them when they presented their children for baptism. Parents are to assist their children with assignments, encourage their faith and regular participation, encourage their child to respect others, and further their growth in the Christian faith.

Active participation by at least one parent of every child in Logos is required. Since the staff is voluntary, part-time services by a large number of people is essential to keep the many activities going. At least as important, however, is the “morale boosting” effect of the parents’ physical presence and visible participation in the successful operation of Logos.

At the time of registration, either one or both parents need to sign up for some supporting participation. Areas where help is needed include cooking, table setting, clean-up, or to sit in the chair as a choir parent or help with recreation time.

The kitchen staff will plan and prepare the meals with the cooperation and assistance of volunteer parents. Parents will assist with table setup, serving and clean up in order to lower the cost and provide opportunity for essential parent involvement. Each volunteer parent is responsible for being present at his/her scheduled hours, or for arranging a competent substitute.

V. Arrangements for visitors

LOGOS members may invite visitors. LOGOS members should call the church office prior to noon the Tuesday before to make reservations for their guest. The cost of the visitor’s meal is \$3.00 payable at the meal. Visitors are expected to stay throughout the LOGOS schedule with the member, who invited them. (We will provide a form for a visitor’s emergency information.)

VI. Absences

We realize that it may be difficult to commit to all 21 sessions of Logos. Illness, vacations, and unavoidable conflicts will occur. Your willingness to share in this ministry is deeply appreciated. We ask that you notify the coordinator of your area as soon as you know you are unable to attend a Logos session. This will ensure that a competent substitute can be found.

VII. Cancellation Policy

There will be no LOGOS on days when school is cancelled for the Marion unit School District. School cancellations are announced on the local radio stations, or you can call the church office.

VIII. Discipline

General demeanor at logos should reflect Christian thought and concern for others. Courtesy is expected. All parents have been asked to stress to their children the need to cooperation with staff and other LOGOS members at all times. At least one parent of each child attending LOGOS has attended a Parents meeting where the discipline policy has been reviewed. All parents have received a handbook outlining these policies and expectations.

Disciplinary problems will be dealt with as quickly and creatively as possible, as they are detrimental to the progress of the entire class and sometimes to the safety and well-being of other students.

We would like to provide the very best learning environment in our Logos classes. Therefore, we have set some standards of student behavior and conduct. We want every student to thoroughly enjoy the program, but at the same time we must set standards of behavior in order to serve the best interests of all.

Our LOGOS Classroom Rules:

- Always listen carefully and follow directions.
- Raise your hand to speak or if you have a question.
- Stay seated and always keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- Do not disturb anyone from teaching or learning.

Remember: Everyone is a Child of God and deserves to be treated that way.

- When a student chooses to misbehave, he or she will be reminded by the person in charge about the rules
- If disruptive behavior continues, the student will be removed from the class and sent to the “Comforter” (an adult designated to take time to talk to the child and find out what the problem is).
- If this fails and disruptive behavior continues the parents will be notified.

As Children of God it is important that we work, play, and eat together in everyone’s best interest and for everyone’s enjoyment.

IX. Behavior at the dinner hour

Table parents, each of whom supervises one table during the dinner hour, should be shown courtesy by and be given cooperation from the young people at their table. Good manners are to be expected.

The signal for silence, either at the table or throughout the room, is an upraised hand.

LOGOS members are asked to remain in the Dining Room until dismissed, unless specifically and personally excused by the table parent.

Table parents assign serving and clean up duties on a rotating basis or under the direction of the Dinner Dean.

X. More about discipline

The only rule of the LOGOS program is:

Everyone is to treat everyone else as a Child of God. No one has the right to treat anyone else as if they do not matter.

Program Philosophy:

No child can do anything bad enough to get kicked out of the LOGOS program.

No adult should ever react in any way other than a reflection of Christ's Love for that child.

Use of a "Comforter"

A comforter, also known as a time-out supervisor, will be in attendance during the entire length of the program. If possible, more than one Comforter will be present after 3:30. It has been decided not to use the term "time out", with the children although fundamentally that is the procedure that will be used.

Rather than saying "time out" we will say "You have a choice." Training will be ongoing on how to use choices and consequences resulting from good or bad choices. The term logical consequences will be used. This term is used to reinforce the distinction between Discipline and punishment.

Discipline vs. Punishment

In the LOGOS Program we will use discipline rather than punishment. The root word of discipline is disciple, meaning a teacher, or follower of Christ. What we want to do, rather than punish a child for their negative behavior, is to

teach them how to give positive behavior. All LOGOS staff needs to be the very best disciples they can be by reflecting the love of Christ.

There are five discipline measures that reflect punishment rather than teaching. These techniques don't work but are used mistakenly too often. They are:

- Physical punishment
- Ignoring the problem
- Permissiveness
- Answering in kind
- Sarcasm

What behavior is considered unacceptable?

It is important to have consistent responses from all LOGOS staff. Children soon figure out which adults will allow a certain degree of negative behavior and will take full advantage of it. Staff also must be aware of inconsistencies from day to day. What is allowed one day, and not allowed the next, will only confuse children as to what is acceptable. However, what one staff member sees as unacceptable behavior another may see as acceptable. Most decisions will be left to each staff member, as long as they are consistent from day to day.

There are some behaviors or actions that most people will agree are unacceptable and these are behaviors that our LOGOS program will discipline each time they occur. They are:

- Aggression physical behavior (hitting, kicking, pushing, etc.)
- Verbal abuse of another person (name calling, teasing, swearing).
- Destruction of personal or church property
- Unwillingness to participate appropriately in LOGOS Program activities.

Methods used to promote and encourage positive behavior

Positive Reinforcement: All children love to be praised. LOGOS staff will show positive regard for all children at all times. If a child does not receive positive attention from adults they will get attention in any way they can and that usually will be through negative behavior.

Catch them being good: LOGOS staff will constantly find ways to give each child positive reinforcement. When the positive regard begins as soon as a child enters the room there will be less reason for that child to look for attention. Ways to show positive regard and phrases to use will be given to all LOGOS staff in ongoing training session.

Adult responsibilities:

1. Model the acceptable behavior. Set a good example.
2. Make sure the children know what is expected. Clearly define the rules, what is acceptable and what is not.
3. Be consistent. Be impartial.
4. Expect some misbehavior. Kids are kids and should be allowed to be so. Be realistic in your expectations.
5. When continually having problems with behavior, check your own! Are you well prepared, realistic, consistent, etc?
6. Respect the child's and the family's confidentiality. Never discuss a child with anyone! If needed, go to the Pastor or a Program director to discuss the problem confidentially.
7. Be forgiving. Forget the past and face each new day with a positive approach.
8. Admit when you are wrong. Apologize to a child if need be.
9. Never do anything that will embarrass a child or diminish their self-esteem.

It takes practice to develop new discipline skills. The following is a quote from the CRAM, the Logos handbook:

New discipline skills and growth in ability to forgive and help children and youth find ways to redeem a bad situation will result as we practice putting our theology into action. There will be failures. We must forgive ourselves and each other when this happens, and learn to grow from the experience. When we do this we are modeling for our children and youth healthy behavior and good discipleship.

One Last Word

The way we react to the children and youth in our LOGOS Program is the essential ingredient for the success or failure of the program. Since the purpose of the program is to help children learn how to build positive, Christian relationships, it is critical that every adult involved in helping with the program understand that they must, at all times, model positive, Christian behavior.

Teach and staff trainings, for everyone involved with the program will be held on an ongoing basis to teach and reinforce skills needed to ensure an understanding of, and ability to practice positive discipline techniques.

