

Student Disciple Math Court: Module 1

Lesson 1

Student Rights & Responsibilities: A Biblical View on Bullying & Harassment

As a student, understanding how biblical principles can guide your actions and reactions in situations involving bullying and harassment is vital. This lesson helps you know your rights and responsibilities from a Christian perspective.

Case Study 1

Alton, a promising young artist, brought his prized painting to a school art exhibition. Tragically, during a period of ongoing tension, Keisha, known as a school bully, intentionally damaged Alton's artwork. The painting was independently valued at US\$23,525. Investigations confirmed that 64% of the painting's total value was directly compromised by Keisha's actions.

Alton's legal representation, seeking full restitution and accountability, initially demanded that Helen, Keisha's mother, pay a sum equivalent to 150% of the damaged value of the painting. In addition to this, Alton sought reimbursement for his incurred legal fees, amounting to US\$1,650.

During the contentious proceedings, Judge Stern carefully considered the arguments and evidence presented. Ultimately, the Judge ordered Helen to pay Alton 135% of the damaged value of the painting. Furthermore, regarding legal fees, the Judge ruled that Helen must cover three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the legal fees Alton incurred. In a gesture aimed at encouraging prompt resolution, Judge Stern included a special condition: a 5% discount would be applied to the total ordered amount if payment was made within 10 days from the date of the verdict. Helen, perhaps seeking to benefit from this reduction or to swiftly close the matter, made the full payment exactly 4 days after the verdict was delivered.

1.0 Your Rights (What God's Word Teaches You Can Expect):

1.1 Right to Safety and Protection (Psalm 91:1-4, Proverbs 18:10): You have a right to feel safe in your school environment, free from those who wish to cause you harm or distress. God is a refuge, and He desires that His children are protected. You can seek this protection through prayer and by informing trusted adults.

1.2 Right to Be Treated with Dignity and Respect (Genesis 1:27, 1 Peter 2:17): Every person is created in the image of God, regardless of their background, appearance, or abilities. This gives every student inherent worth. You have a right to be treated with dignity and kindness, and not to be devalued or mocked by others.

1.3 Right to Seek Justice and Righteous Judgment (Isaiah 1:17, Romans 13:4): If you are wronged or unfairly treated through bullying, you have a right to seek justice through proper channels. God calls us to defend the cause of the oppressed. Reporting bullying to school authorities allows them to exercise their God-given role in maintaining order and administering fair consequences.

1.4 Right to Peace and Reconciliation (Romans 12:18, Matthew 5:9): While not always immediately achievable, you have a right to strive for peaceful relationships. When conflict arises, seeking peace and reconciliation, even with those who have wronged you, is a biblical goal. This might involve mediation or formal resolution processes.

1.5 Right to Learn and Grow Without Undue Hindrance (Proverbs 1:5): Your primary purpose at school is to learn and develop. Bullying hinders this process. You have a right to an environment conducive to learning, where your focus is not constantly distracted by fear or harassment.

2.0 Your Responsibilities (What God's Word Expects of You):

2.1 Love Your Neighbour as Yourself (Matthew 22:39, John 13:34): This is the ultimate commandment. It means treating every student and staff member with the same care, kindness, and respect you desire for yourself. Do not participate in

or encourage any action that causes harm, pain, or discomfort to others.

2.2 Do Not Retaliate or Seek Revenge (Romans 12:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:15): If you are bullied, your responsibility is not to fight back with the same hurtful actions. Instead, choose to do good and seek peaceful solutions. Responding to evil with evil only escalates conflict.

2.3 Speak Up and Report Wrongdoing (Proverbs 24:11-12, Ephesians 5:11): If you are being bullied or if you witness someone else being bullied, you have a moral and spiritual responsibility to speak the truth and report the incident to a trusted adult. Silence can allow injustice to continue and harm to spread.

2.4 Be a Peacemaker (Matthew 5:9, James 3:18): Actively work to create a peaceful environment at school. This means avoiding gossip, not spreading rumours, and actively discouraging hurtful behaviour in your peer groups. Seek to reconcile and bridge divides rather than widen them.

2.5 Practice Self-Control and Humility (Proverbs 25:28, Philippians 2:3-4): Control your anger, words, and impulses. Do not act out of pride or a desire to dominate others. Instead, be humble, consider others' needs, and use your strength to uplift, not tear down.

2.6 Obey Authority (Romans 13:1, Hebrews 13:17): Respect and adhere to school rules and the instructions of teachers and administrators. They are in positions of authority to maintain order and ensure safety. Cooperate with their investigations into bullying.

3.0 Know Your Rights: Biblical Perspective on Bullying & Harassment Scenarios – Interactive Quiz

Here are 10 multiple-choice questions based on the biblical principles related to student bullying and harassment, focused on the Alton and Keisha case.

[Take Interactive Quiz 1](#)

END OF LESSON 1

Well done on completing this lesson so far! Keep up the great work as you progress through the remaining lessons. Remember, successfully completing all the interactive tests at the end of each lesson is key to mastering the material. Once you've finished the entire module, you'll be eligible to apply for your well-deserved **Certificate of Participation**, a testament to your dedication and learning journey with The Math Court!

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