



# MR. MULKEY'S 2ND GRADE

Dear parents,

I am absolutely heart-broken to not be able to finish this year of teaching your child. Today is literally the first Sunday in 17 years that I have not been teaching a second grade class. I have poured my heart and soul into this ministry. I love each and every one of your kids and pray for them by name.

As many, if not all of you, already know, I have been asked by the elders to step down from teaching Kidstuff effective immediately. If for some reason you did not receive the email from Ruthie Smith (director of children's ministries) explaining this decision, please reply to this email to let me know so I can forward it to you.

To reiterate what that email said, the reason had nothing to do with any criminal act nor anything even close to that. As Ruthie stated, I had picked up a child from another class with their parent's consent, which she said, "gave [me] responsibility and burden above [my] area of responsibility as a Kidstuff teacher."

Though her email was specific, I want to be even more specific so there's no doubt about what happened. This was a child who was a former student and whose family I am friends with. The child wanted to help me at the end of my 5:00 class by helping pick up trash, put away the rank badges, vacuum, etc. until their parents came to pick them up. However, this was always with other children and adults present at all times. There was never any isolated interactions with this child in the classroom with me nor any other children's

ministry worker.

So although that is more specific, it might even raise more questions as to why that would result in me being asked to step down from teaching. If so, please contact Ruthie at [REDACTED]. I wish I could say I understand, but I don't. However, I will be meeting with an elder starting tomorrow to work through these questions. I want to be very clear that I have not one ounce of anger or resentment towards anyone in our church, including our leaders and elders. I know with all my heart they love me and want what's best for both me and the church, even when I don't understand the reasoning behind specific decisions and how they're carried out. I've also spoken to many of you, and I know you love me and are praying for me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I love you too!

I also wanted to be clear that while Ruthie's email may have unintentionally sounded very final, I have been assured the ultimate goal here is to iron out the disconnect I'm having with how she and the elders are applying our child safety policies, and then, Lord willing, restoration to children's ministry. I have been told what I did was not a direct violation of these policies, but a "gray area" which, in their opinion, I should've avoided based on the principle of these policies. Again, this is why I will be meeting with church leadership over the next few months--to work through these issues. Please pray for clarity. Right now I am very confused, especially about not being able to finish out the year.

I will continue to send out the weekly updates, and you can still contact me by email, text, Facebook, etc. to send your child's work if they're absent, etc. just like before. The subs and the class helpers will still be recording points for activity sheets and memory verses, so please encourage your child to keep on being faithful to those just like they were before--nothing has changed with the assignments or point system. They will still get prizes/promotions just like when I was in the classroom with them! For those of you whose child is poised to make the highest rank by the end of the year, I will be in contact with you to arrange meeting with your family privately to give them their special prizes and certificate in person at the end of the Kidstuff year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me as well at [REDACTED] if you wish.

Jonathan

## LINKS

[Class Handbook](#)

[Doctrinal Objectives](#)

[Receive a weekly text notification with a link to these updates](#)

[Add my contact info to your contacts](#)

[Join our class' private Facebook Group](#)

[Watch Lesson and Memory Verse Videos](#)



Facebook



YouTube



Website

---