



# Motherhood!--Your Calling!

TEENS SHARE LESSONS FROM SARA FOR CHILDCARE HELPERS



## Love, Loyalty & Support for Mothers!

From Leah: (Age 13 1/2-14)

The talk from Auntie Sara was a real eye-opener & envisions as to what childcare is really all about & what is expected of a childcare helper. It was very needed in my life personally, as I am quite a novice at childcare helping, as I feel like I'm just beginning to learn the very basics of it. As she shared, being a childcare helper you really learn to be nothing but a servant to the mother & to work under the mother. If you decide to work in childcare, it's like dedicating your life to it as it's a fulltime job & you are being a servant of the mother, & the child of course too. The mother needs us so much & I know sometimes I felt like the bad example that Sara gave of people who think they're God's gift to the mother & think, "Oh, they appreciate my help so much! I'm such a sacrificial person helping." Of course they really do appreciate our help, but we don't know better than the mother & we need to be more submitted to the mother completely & follow her leadings & her standards & not do our own thing with the child.

It's so important that we're yielded completely & really in obedience to the childcare leadership in any home. No matter what we've learned here about childcare, wherever we are or whoever the parent is, we should still be willing to respect, obey & understand them & just be a servant no matter how many good tips we've learned here, or we won't be a real help & blessing. Of course, it's good to suggest things, but not to push our own way in our own strength & think we know best.

"For we preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves you: servants for Jesus' sake."  
(2Cor. 4:5)

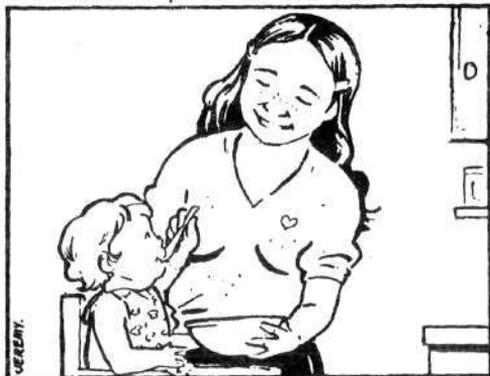
One thing that I've really been learning when I work with children is it's a fulltime job, 24 hours a day. I have to be constantly on standby & make it my life-style to be a childcare helper, because there's no particular routine to being with children. They're not like the dishes or the laundry, where you can just have a scheduled time to be with them & just as soon as that hour period is done you just knock off & go & have dinner. But it's constant, & you have to have that frame of mind where you're

constantly aware of the children & looking after the mother & seeing if she needs help or seeing the needs of the child. A good tip that Auntie Sara said was that if you're really concerned about your jobs—even other tasks besides childcare, but especially childcare—then you'll pray more for them & pray about all the little details. A real mother really prays about all the little details.

So it's really important that if we take the responsibility upon ourselves of learning to mother that child or those children & be as a mother & have a real mother's heart, then we'll pray for them more. I know so often I lack that prayerful attitude because I figure it's not my duty. If there's a problem or they have a rash or something, of course I should counsel with the mother, but it's also my part to pray about it, to read about it & be concerned about it & make it my job to be concerned about those children. That in a way is like being a servant of the mother, the slave of the mother because you're loving them for her. It's real important to take care of them as they would want to take care of them if they had time, which they don't because they have other work for the Lord.

Another good point was to be real willing & show lots of concern because the children will feel it. The more cooperative we are & joyful in our task with them, the more the children will behave & love us for it. It's real important if we are helping with someone else's child, that we really put ourselves in the mother's place & see how she would feel & try & be a good replacement for her.

We really need to put ourselves more in the mother's place & see how she sees



things. Maybe she hasn't spent time with her child in a long time & there are reasons behind her actions that we don't understand. Or maybe the child is jealous of the new baby & is having a few trials, so it's important to see the reason behind things & to have an extra eye of love, a mother's love to see those things more & not be bound by the rules. It's really important that we ask the Lord for a special eye of love to see the child's needs & not to just follow the law or our own wisdom.

Something that I have been lacking a lot & I've been learning to have more initiative in, is to anticipate the needs of the mother & the child & pray for real sensitivity to the needs of the mother & have real initiative. It's like a dedication & I really pray that I have more of that sensitive eye to see the need more & jump to help when needed.

We can't be bound by "Now I'm off duty" & "It's time that I'm off duty." Being a childcare helper is to be constantly on-the-go 24 hours a day every day of the year. If we happen to have to sacrifice our Word time or our freetime, or video time, we should think, "Look at the mother, she's probably not seen a video in a while or read a Letter recently or had a rest time all day." Sometimes we are needed in childcare when others are off duty.

If the situation arises where we have to skip our Word time to help, if we're all hurried & flurried & thinking, "Oh no, I'm missing my Word time, I'm missing my video", then the baby or the child really feels it, if you're all worried. But with children you have to have a real trust that everything's working out & really be sacrificial & want to jump in, whatever the need is, no matter what it costs, just laying yourself on the altar of service to them & the parents.

Little things are so important when working with children & especially newborns & babies. I wish I could've been a better help before, because I know I failed a lot in seeing how my help or my lack of help can really affect others. Especially when new babies come, we can make the load so much easier by just doing the little things—making sure the water bucket is filled enough so dirty diapers don't smell up the room, or checking to see if there are enough tissues or getting the mother a snack so she stays well-nourished & doesn't have to worry about it herself. Those very little things are so important to pray about & to really remember & be faithful with. If we forget things too much we should ask ourselves where our minds were at the time, because

they were obviously not on our work or we were obviously not being concerned enough or really seeing the need & not doing our best to be servants of the child & mother. — Probably we were thinking about our own freetime or our own things!

Sometimes I minimize those little things too much, but those are really what make the Kingdom stand & they really affect others. We need to lay down our lives as servants, & to really pray for a mother's heart, so we take the responsibility on ourselves & we can have more of a loving eye to see their need. I've noticed that if I take a child & I'm not into it, then everything just goes really wrong. Or if I'm not understanding or trying to see how a mother feels or I'm set in my own way of what I think is right & wrong, then it just really goes wrong & the child's unhappy, the mother's unhappy & I'm unhappy.

So it's really important to just be yielded & be submitted & follow & to treat the child as the mother would treat him if she was around & really pray about things & look into things if there are problems. The mother will be so grateful to us if we really teach the kids as much as we can & not loaf on the job but really treat them like they were our own kids. How much would we want them to learn how to read & to learn the Word & memorize? I know if I had my own child I'd sure want him to learn how to read & write & have all the love he or she can have, & learn the Word & learn to memorize real well & be healthy. I'd sure look into it if he had any kind of rash & I would pray about it. So how much more should I be able to do it for another mother & really ask the Lord for a mother's heart for those children, so I can really put my all into the job!

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### Put Your Heart Into Being a Real Mother!

From Heaven:

Auntie Sara talked to us about motherhood & being totally dedicated to your job of being a childcare helper & being willing to do anything at any time.—To not act like it's a job & put in your eight hours & sign off no matter how tired the Mommy is & go watch a video or whatever. She talked about having a real dedication & loyalty for it & to really enjoy it & have fun, as it's working with real people, souls!

Also, if I really care about it & if I really consider it important, then I will pray about it. For example, I was praying that the Lord would help me to not be foolish with Mary Dear, & not treat her like

a baby but to be more like Auntie Dora who really treats her more like an adult & talks like an adult with her.

Auntie Sara said that you have to put your whole heart into it & make it part of your life & not just consider it a "job", & only be willing to do it in freetime hours or when asked to do it. It's amazing how before I used to put in my five hours or so & then "Bye-bye, Auntie Dora! I'm leaving!" & I was off to play or off to video night & I don't ever remember hardly ever thinking, "How about Auntie Dora? She might be tired from a long day's work." It was more like a work schedule to me. But now it has become more of a 24-hour-a-day thing, to always be checking & seeing if they need help. The vision really challenged me also to really be under subjection to the Mommy, & we've been reading the Bible & Letters about being servants of all!

When you're in childcare, you can't always get all the things done you want to do all the time! Even though the other night I didn't get to dictate my reactions because I had to fold a bunch of laundry, I felt like, "Well, PTL, I'm just a servant, & I'm just being a mother & a mother has lots to do! I need to learn to press in more to make good use of the time I have & trust the Lord that if I'm diligent with my time He'll help me to get everything done. She doesn't always get to do what she wants to do." I was just really praising the Lord, being thankful that I could be more like the adults & the mothers when they sometimes feel work stacking up, but they still have the baby & they still have the children.

What I'm finding out in life—not only in childcare but in every area—is it all comes down to how much I put into it!—whether I just do it out of duty & drag along or if I really dedicate myself to the job—even if it's cleaning up or dishes—and really press-in & pray & seek the Lord about it! "You've got to have a glory in the thing you do!"

Another thing that's important is a sacrificial spirit! Because it's laziness when I see the mother or someone really needs help with the child & I don't jump up & do it.

PTL! Lord help me to become & learn to be a real mother with a real mother's love & sacrifice!

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#### More On Understanding the Mother

From Ruth:

Auntie Sara's talk on Motherhood showed me that if you really want to work in

childcare, you have to put yourself in the mother's place & you have to feel how she feels & you have to think how she would do things or how she would act in the situation. That really spoke to me when Auntie Sara said that if you're going to be a childcare worker you have to dedicate yourself to it for life & you have to be in a close link with the mother & have a good communication about how to do things. You can't criticise the mother for being a little more lenient with her children because maybe the child is going through a big battle or maybe the mother is really tired or going through a trial. The mother knows the situation & child best, & we as part-time helpers don't know all the answers. We need to try to be more like mothers than just helpers.

That was a really good lesson & it really applied to me. When I was taking care of a child in the last days before we moved, I didn't know that everybody was moving, but the mother knew that she would soon be separated from her children. She was really loving them more & she wasn't really disciplining them consistently, so sometimes when they were with her they would get all rowdy or start acting up & I thought, "Why doesn't she spank them? Why doesn't she talk to them or scold them? If I had them I would scold them for being silly & rowdy!" But I really didn't take time to consider what trial she must be going through to have to leave them & to have to go on to somewhere else & she didn't know if she would ever see them again. I shouldn't have criticised her, so that lesson really applied to me!

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Honey, you're learning so quickly and doing it exactly as I told you with real faith and prayer.

You're becoming a real Mommy!

#### Childcare Helper As Servant of Mother!

From Naomi:

Grandpa always teaches us to count the cost of what could happen, & really pray & ask the Lord about everything we do. That's the standard of judgement, "What could happen?"

When we go from here we'll have to obey

the rules of the home we're in & not try to promote the way it's done here. The childcare helper is a slave to the mother & the child & we should obey & follow her. That's what we should expect when we decide to get into childcare. We have got to be in unity with the mother. We can make or break the whole situation by the way we handle the child. If there's any disagreement between the mother & the childcare helper it will do damage to the child. We have to understand the parent's point of view.

If we see there's a need, we should fulfill it whether we're on duty or not.—That's a real childcare helper. Aunt Sara said the term "Childcare Worker" sounds like just 8 A.M.—5 P.M., then you're "off work". But in childcare, we should consider ourselves on duty all the time & really try to help the mother when we see she's

struggling, even though it may be our official "off duty" hours, to put ourselves in the mother's place. If we put our hearts into it, it will be fun & rewarding, but if we treat it as a duty, then it'll be just a hard job. The reason we are helping a mother with her children as a ministry is because she as a leader has a more important job to do for the Lord, than caring for her own children fulltime, so we can be "real mothers" to the child, & not just "workers" if we dedicate ourselves to the ministry.

I need to pray for the Lord to help me anticipate the child's needs. If I'm dedicated to something, I'll be praying about it.—That's real dedication, when I dedicate my prayer time to it. If I want to work in childcare, I need to dedicate myself to motherhood, not just "childcare work".

### SUMMARY OF SARA'S MOTHERHOOD POW-WOW!

Notes by Heaven: (Age 13)

—We as helpers should be loyal & submitted. We are servants to the mothers & children & should strive to train the child like a real mother would.

—We should obey the "rules" in each home.—How they do things & take care of their children, etc.

—The childcare helpers have got to be in unity with each other & the mothers.

—When accepting the role of taking care of children, you are accepting a fulltime job, as children are not "things" but little people.

—The childcare ministry takes a lot of dedication & love.

—Childcare is a life-time & full-time dedication.—We'll never be out of work to do!

—Be yielded & submitted to the parents as your overseers.—That's the biggest help we can be in childcare!

—A real childcare helper is willing to help & model herself after a real mother.

—You need to have initiative & see the need even when it's supposedly "free time" or the "end of work period".

—Sometimes it's hard & humbling for the mother to ask for help. So we must stop &

put ourselves in the mother's place & have initiative to help.

—When you put your heart into it, it's so much fun!

—Do it cheerfully & willingly & the Lord will bless you for it!

—If you have a bad attitude about it, the child will be bad & unhappy too.

—Parents appreciate your help more than they could ever say! We hope you teens appreciate the training they give you in childcare.

—If you're dedicated to children you'll even pray about them & their needs, new ideas, etc.

—Proverbs 27:23—"Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks & look well to thy herds."

—When beginning to care for the baby, pray out loud! It's a good sample to the baby or child, & even when so young they can hear you pray.

—Tune in totally, especially to babies.—No daydreaming!

—Get an eye for the physical things which need to be done too, all throughout the day when caring for children.

—If you want to be a childcare helper dedicate yourself to real Motherhood!

### WHAT WOULD I DO DIFFERENT?

#### Childcare Lessons From Teens Teaching Toddlers!

From Leah: (Age 13 1/2)

I sure have been learning a whole lot & I'm so thankful for this childcare training. I'm now thinking of my old situation at another home, & the way I used to do things compared to what I would do differently with children now. How would I approach people

about different things that I see need change & what would I do to change things & how?

#### Concern for Proper Diet

Something that I'd really like to change in, is being more concerned about the child's diet & how he eats. Before I would give him many unnecessary snacks just to "keep him happy", like grabbing some raisins

& sitting him down in the high chair & giving them to him so he wouldn't cry.—Really spoiling him in this way, or giving him too much starch (excess bread) just for snack. Because I would give too many snacks in between meals, he wouldn't eat his dinner or his full meals. Also, at meals I would even give him too much starch to eat.

Now I have learned that it's best to give them their meat or proteins & veggies & fruit first, & not let them eat up the starch first. Starches are necessary, but protein & veggies are much more healthy & better for them & they're more likely not to eat their veggies & proteins if they have a piece of bread first. But they are likely to eat their bread after their protein & veggies because they like starch & have more of an appetite for it.

Also I learned to gear their appetites more toward healthy foods. I know personally I never really gave honey or molasses to the children I took care of. I never really knew how good it was & never ate it myself either, but it's good to teach them to like honey & molasses.

### Having Mercy on the Children

In my previous Home there was a very sweet & dedicated childcare worker, & I always really looked up to her for her willingness with the children that she took care of, GBH. She's a real sacrificial person & I in no way want to belittle her, but I know that many childcare people, including me, have had the same problem as she had, & that was having an unmerciful attitude & being jerky & a kind of mad attitude at children. Auntie Sara plainly brought out in our pow-wow, how that is something we need to work on.—Our hastiness & doing what we want to do, & pushing it on the children we care for.

I know sometimes a mother would come in the room to give a child to her, but she would just be waking up from her nap, & it was quite hard on her sometimes. Maybe she would have cramps & things, & not feel in the best mood. Then the child would accidentally pee on the floor & she would pick her up kind of briskly & carry her off kind of mad. Not spanking her, but where the child could really feel the spirit. I always thought, "Oh my, that's not so nice", not realising that I had the same faults myself with the child I took care of. That was pointing at the faults of others instead of looking at my own.

I know that it's very important now to really feel what the child feels. The child will pick up on those things. She'd even

start screaming louder & think that the helper was mad at her. I know the child I took care of, when I did things like that, he would really start crying & even get more rebellious if I judged him too harshly for little things.

So it's really good to learn to have more mercy & I would really try to change in that area if I had it to do over. I'm praying that the Lord will help me in those areas & it's something that everyone goes through, & something that teachers or mothers have to learn.—Patience. Because it is hard to have lots of patience & love, but it's very important to have it, to have compassion on them & not judge them too harshly & really keep our spirits in check, knowing that everything we do, they will pick up on & their spirits will react to our spirits. Our spirits are contagious!

### Set a Goal!

Also, one thing that has really been noticeable & where I would like to change, is in really having a goal & really making an effort to teach the toddlers & not just babysit. I know I could have taught my child a lot more, if I had had more of that spirit, that real high goal to teach him & that real fire & inspiration to go out of my way to look through the pubs more, because I was sometimes too lazy to look through the pubs.

It's all written down, & even others in the house were a lot more into teaching their children than I was, probably because of having more experience. But no one ever pointed out my shortcomings very often & when they did, they didn't really give me the solution. I should have looked more in the Word for the solution, & redeemed the time more, to pour into the child & even just tried to make everyday things more interesting & a learning experience!

### Washing Up!

One point that just can't be stressed enough for little children & for us, is washing hands. I know I would definitely try to make more of an effort to teach the little ones to wash hands many times a day & the importance of cleanliness.

Also I know that in the Home I came from the little children wouldn't wash their faces when they woke up. I did sometimes, but not consistently. They would come with sleep in their eyes & weren't properly taken care of as far as washing their eyes & their hands before coming to breakfast.—Just kind of get up, slip on your clothes, go downstairs for devotions, kind of thing. But

It helps to wash their faces with water, just to wake up more & have more of a fresh vision for the day.

One other good thing is to teach them how to brush their teeth right, & to brush their teeth for them to make sure that they do it right, because we can't really trust them to do it right on their own.—Make it fun & look in the mirror together to check that their teeth are clean!

### Starting "Yes, Sir!" at an Early Age!

One point that really impressed me a lot about Mary Dear, is that she was really taught to say "Yes, Sir" & "Yes, Ma'am" from a very early age. I know that this has helped prevent her from talking back, which was a real problem in our Home. Some children talk back a lot & had to be reminded 2 or 3 times before they said "Yes, Ma'am" or "Yes, Sir". We can teach them to say this very young & stress that point, even with us bigger teens. I think the younger kids didn't say it so much, because we older ones weren't so faithful to say it ourselves. A sample is better than a sermon!

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### **MORE PERSONAL LESSONS IN CHILDCARE**

From Naomi, 13 yrs.:

#### Our Sacrificial Childcare Helpers

The Lord really impressed upon me this week how much our childcare helpers & teachers have to really sacrifice & how they must really have a lot of love, because it's hard work! One night Uncle Mark was real tired & he was in bed early. We were still all up reading but he was in bed with his light off & he was going to sleep. So we all tried to be real quiet, but then at the end of reading time when we were all going to bed, he got up making sure the room was secure & there was a tape on & checked on the bathroom & different little things, then



he went back to bed.

The Lord really impressed on me how much childcare people have to really love the children they're taking care of. I know if I was tired & I was going to bed early & I was sleeping with a bunch of kids & had to get up when I was just about asleep & fix up the room because they were going to bed, I wouldn't be so happy about it. I'd probably be pretty grouchy about it.

But it gave me an extra burden to really pray for our adult helpers, because they really do have a lot of love & patience. I've been really praying for them because they really do have a big job & it's not really so easy to take care of a bunch of children. You've really got to sacrifice a lot & give a lot & pour out & really love the children you're taking care of.

### Discipline by Persuasion!

This week we had a real good childcare meeting with Auntie Dora, Uncle Mark & Auntie Sara. I mentioned in the meeting that I had never seen Sara & Dora using the 1-2-3 counting method of discipline if the child was doing something bad or wrong.

Then the whole childcare meeting turned into a discipline lesson. They said they don't use the 1-2-3-spark method that much, because the child may not know & understand each time, if he's doing wrong or not. It doesn't really give time to explain some situations. We should try as much as we can to persuade them to cooperate with us.

It bears better fruit, for example, to look at a child disapprovingly & say, "Now Billy, you know that's not right to step over the line, don't you?" If they still try it, you could do something like clapping your hands real loud one time to warn them not to continue. They'll get the point, unless they're real stubborn or real rebellious, & then you'd have to spank. But the point is that spankings aren't the answer—Love is the answer & you should try to train them with your reasons & explain things to a child, as he may not know the consequences. Of course, sometimes he does know better. Say "Uh oh, if you go too near the stove, you know what might happen? You might get burned like Billy the chick! (Life with Grandpa, Vol. One, pg. 158) A pot on the stove might fall on you & you might get burned! Oh dear! You don't want to be like little Billy the chick, do you?"

Or if they start running off in the yard or something, you can say "Come back, Snowflake, or you may get lost & hurt yourself." Or if an older child is being mean to the other one, you can say "Uh oh,

you don't want to be like the mean brother of the little girl who couldn't sleep. You should show love to your sister!" (Kidz TK, Vol. Two, pg.239) Use the Word & the TK stories to try to persuade them or remind them if they're just attempting to do wrong. But if they do know better & are rebellious, they may need a swat!

### Discipline Means Training!

Aunt Dora said that kids have a lot of energy & lots of times they use it to do bad things. For example, if there is one child who can be a real leader, he can lead the kids the wrong way & they'll follow him if the childcare helpers let him. What they need to do is channel all his energy & give him little jobs to do, like going & getting the different items at lunchtime, & setting up the chairs for classtimes & things like this that will channel his energy to doing good things & helping out.

You have to pray & ask the Lord to lead & guide you, & He will. You shouldn't overlook the areas they do wrong in, but on the other hand you don't want to be too hard. You should ask the Lord specifically for wisdom & guidance & follow the rules agreed upon by all.

Aunt Sara said that sometimes if kids are being bad & you're in a group, you can kind of say out loud, "Oh dear, I've already given a few warnings. I was praying that nothing like this would happen. Oh my, we were going to do a fun project, but now the kids are being bad. O Lord, what should I do? I don't want to have to stop this fun thing we're about to do & have a big spanking instead!" If you say something like that it will really convict the group & usually they'll stop & repent.

She said discipline doesn't mean spank, it means training. Of course, it includes spanks (or at least a swat on the bottom), but that's not the rule, it's the last resort. Treat them with love, the way the Lord treats you & don't resort to whacking too soon & too often. And try to get the discipline over with as quick as you can & distract them from it & go on to something else to help them get the victory.

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### MORE TIPS OBSERVED ON CHILDCARE!

By Leah, Teen Trainee: (13 1/2-14)

#### Mealtime

I have been sitting by Mary Dear & Auntie Dora at mealtimes, & this has been quite interesting, & quite new, as I never have learned so much along those lines. Here are some things I've learned:

1) Try to avoid the child starting to cry & being unhappy at mealtimes, since happiness is a requirement for good digestion. For example, if she happens to use her fingers or spills her water, Mary Dear is comforted to help her get over her embarrassment & clumsiness, instead of a slap on the hand & real stern talk (unlike what I have seen a sample of before of real strict rules & the child has no time to enjoy himself & have a fun dinner time with parents). Of course, there are a few rules, like eating with a spoon if they can, etc., but the fun far outweighs the discipline times. Lots of foods are eaten with hands, i.e., carrots, bananas, & are easier for them to eat with their hands too.

2) One question I had when coming here was: I saw Mary Dear telling quite a few announcements at dinner & she was free to tell everyone something if she wanted to, whereas where I had been, one of the little ones always wanted to say announcements at dinner but was discouraged from it. But here it is perfectly alright to say her little announcement (Ed.: Mary Dear would say something like "I slept in my own bed!"— This would encourage her not to be shy in addressing others), & actually it even cheered up the big people.

3) It helps to use a divider plate for toddlers so their food doesn't get all mixed up & it's easy for them to scoop food up with their spoon.

4) It is also very important to have a cup of water right there in case the child should choke & need it right there, & to rinse with after the meal. Rinse the mouth 2 or 3 times. Wipe toddlers' hands clean before leaving the table to wash their hands after meals.

5) A telephone book covered with plastic shelf paper to sit on helps to bring Mary Dear closer to her plate & higher to the table to make eating easier, & helps her not have to lean way over with the risk of dropping food continuously.

6) Often she will get up after dinner & walk around to see everyone, so the one responsible for her or anyone says, "Big girl coming!" in case she happens to be passing behind a person who's scooting out his chair & hits her.

8) When food is carried into the dining room for the buffet, they always announce "Hot pot coming through!" & someone makes sure they are right with Mary Dear. She is also taught to get out of the way or to obey "Freeze!" (Ed.: To stop right there & not move until told it's OK & safe.)