

Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Read Together

Consider contexts in which discipline is given: a family, a place of employment, a society, a sports league, a church, etc. In each of those contexts, authority and relationship are essential for discipline to be properly administered. For example, at your place of employment, your supervisor or board members have the ability to discipline you—authority and relationship exists. However, those same individuals would have no such authority to discipline employees at another place of business—no authority and no relationship exist.

Throughout Scripture, God is presented as having the authority to discipline mankind (Matthew 28:18) and a meaningful relationship by which effectual discipline can occur (Proverbs 3:11-12). Perhaps no other section of the New Testament speaks more of God's discipline and our response to it than Hebrews 12. To mature in Christ, we must grow through the discipline of the Lord.

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- Read the following passages that discuss God's discipline. Briefly summarize each passage.
 - Deuteronomy 8:5
 - Job 5:17-18
 - Psalm 94:12-15
 - Proverbs 3:11-12
 - 2 Timothy 2:22-26
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - Titus 2:11-14
 - Revelation 3:19
- Discuss the differences between "discipline" and "punishment".
- The letter to the Hebrews is written to a Jewish audience to proclaim the supremacy of Jesus Christ in all things, especially in times of trials. Suffering produces growth. Consider Jesus. He endured trials and learned obedience through suffering (Hebrews 5:7-8). Christ founded and perfected our faith through His suffering on the cross. How does Jesus' suffering continually minister abundant life for believers (Hebrews 12:1-2)?
- Hebrews 11—commonly described as the Faith Hall of Fame—immediately precedes Hebrews 12—a chapter all about discipline, perseverance, and spiritual growth. What is the connection between a faith that perseveres and ongoing godly discipline? How does one beget the other?



- Spiritual growth is a development process, not a one-time event. “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:11) Share a personal example of how God has used discipline to develop your faith. What were specific pain points for you? How did the Holy Spirit help you endure these? Describe the peaceful fruit of righteousness that has grown from that discipline?
- Hebrews 12-13 highlights Kingdom living in a fallen world. Jesus’ example (12:1-2) and God’s discipline (12:4-11) serve as ongoing catalysts for this unique way of life. Discuss how these two factors impact the following areas of Kingdom living:
 - Love (13:1-6)
 - Christian Leadership (13:7-8)
 - Christian Sacrifice (13:9-16)
 - Christian Obedience (13:17)
 - Prayer (13:18-19)
- Identify one person whose spiritual growth you need to invest in. How can your story of godly discipline and spiritual growth minister to them? What is the greatest lesson that you could teach or train someone else? What keeps you from doing that?
- A Discipleship Group exists to develop disciples who produce spiritual fruit. In a D-Group you’ll learn to produce spiritual fruit by using your God-given, spiritual gifts to lead others to become growing disciples of Christ. Are you connected to a D-Group? If so, share your experience. How might your spiritual life look differently if you had the ongoing accountability and fellowship of a D-Group?

Do Life Together

These questions are designed to be asked in a smaller group of 2-4 people. The smaller setting will provide better opportunity for authentic responses. In your smaller group time, take notes to help others remain accountable to their answers. Grow together!

- How is God calling you to “grow up” in Christ this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has Jesus proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

Pray Together

Pray through Hebrews 5:7-8.

