

Hebrews 12:3-17

Warming Up

1. Share a time when you were got in trouble as a kid and were disciplined. Was the discipline deserved or not? Was it for your good? Did any good come of the situation? How did it affect your relationship with the one who disciplined you?

Knowing the Gospel...

2. Check out these verses and consider the different ways Jesus suffered (Ps. 22:1, 69:21, Isaiah 53:3-12, Mark 10:33-34, Luke 9:22, Luke 18:31-32, 1 Cor. 15:3).

What helped Jesus endure his suffering? (12:2)

What promises or truths help you endure during difficult times? Where in Scripture do you find these?

3. The author of Hebrews challenged believers to consider Jesus' suffering so that they..."may not grow weary and lose heart". This phrase can refer to both physical and spiritual exhaustion. Check out these verses and consider how his audience was suffering and being challenged both:

Physically- Heb. 10:32-34 , 13:3, 13-14

Spiritually- 2:1-3, 5:11, 6:12, 10:25, 12:4

What trials and struggles in your life cause you to grow weary and lose heart?

Living the Gospel...

4. Read Hebrews 12:6-11 again. What does the discipline of God tell us about:

God's Character-

God's Concern for his people-

Us-

When and how have you felt the discipline of God in your life? What did that discipline look like? (trials, suffering etc.) How have you seen that trial bring about more righteousness in your life?

5. Read Romans 5:3-5 and James 1:2-4. How has the Covid-19 pandemic served to bring any discipline or training in holiness in your life? How has God used it for good in your life? Has it produced endurance, character, hope, maturity? If so, how? Has it exposed a need in your life for any of these? If so, how?

6. Hebrews 12:5-6 quotes Proverbs 3:11-12: How do verses 5-11 somewhat contradict contemporary popular parenting models in western culture? If you have children, how do these verses challenge your parenting? How can discipline be a good thing for both the parent and child relationship? For the relationship between God and his child?

Telling the Gospel...

7. Consider this question and discuss as a group: If a non-believer asked you, "If God CAN stop the pandemic, why DOESN'T he?" what would you say?

8. Have you ever shared God's work in your life with someone else (not just salvation but his overall faithfulness to you)? If so, what were the results? What types of things in your "story" about God's work in your life could you share with someone who needs to trust Christ? What intentional step of faith do you need to take this week?

Next Week: Hebrews 12:18-29

