

# “Family Plan”



This week we learned that God disciplines those He loves. The verse for the week is **Hebrews 12:6**

**For the Lord disciplines the one he loves...**

Please take 5-10 minutes each day to recite the verse with your child, discuss the questions for the day, and pray with them.

## Goin' Home

### MONDAY

Over the last several weeks we have been talking about some of God's promises. While we have learned about many, they are many more in the Bible that we haven't learned about. We learned about a new promise of God this week.

But first let's see what we can remember of the ones we have learned about in the past several weeks. What are some of the promises of God that you remember? *Allow answers..prompt if necessary*

*Some answers may be that God hears our prayers, that is never leaves us but is always with us, God is our strength, He gives us peace in times of trouble, God forgives and saves those who repent of their sins and call out in faith on the name of the Lord Jesus, etc.*

These are all wonderful promises! Which ones in particular are your favorite?

One of the most important things to remember about God is that He is faithful to keep His promises. He never lets us down, never breaks a promise. We should remember Numbers 23:19 from the Bible (read verse). How is God different from men? *He does not lie or change His mind. If He said it will happen or He will do something you can be sure that things will happen!*

**Application:** God gives us many promises, promises He if faithful to keep.

**PRAY** (Thank God for being so different from people. You never let us down, never fail us, always keep your promises)

### TUESDAY

This week we learned about another promise of God. One we sometimes may not like very much...at least not when we first think about it!

What was that promise? We learned that God promises discipline when we disobey Him. What is disobeying God and doing things our way called? *Sin.*

Let's talk about what discipline means. Everyone has been disciplined by an authority figure sometime in their life. Can you think of a time when you were disciplined? Let me help to better understand the word.

Suppose you were given a time out. Or maybe had a toy or game taken away for a while. Or were grounded from something such as playing outside or on the computer. Sometimes we call these things a punishment or a consequence. They are part of being disciplined.

We will talk more about why we are disciplined throughout the week. But first we need to understand the word a little better. We will read through a passage each day to better understand discipline and how we should react to it. The passage is Hebrews 12:5-11.

Listen to this verse now and think a bit about what it teaches about discipline.

**Application:** Being disciplined a promise from God that may be hard to understand, but is very good for us.

**PRAY** (Ask God to help us understand discipline better.)

## WEDNESDAY

*Read Hebrews 12:5-11*

In verses 5-6 we learn a promise of God. What is it? *Allow answers*

God disciplines those He loves. Does that seem odd to you? God gives punishment to those he loves?

How does verse 5 tell us to take this discipline? *Reread verse.* We are told not to take it “lightly”.

What might this mean? We are to pay attention to the discipline God gives us, appreciate it, and as we will see learn from it! Listen to verses 7-8. They tell us God disciplines us because He thinks of us as what?...as sons! What a joy! To be thought by God as a part of His family!

**Application:** We should take the Lord’s discipline seriously, knowing He does it because He loves us.

**PRAY-**(Thank God for loving us enough to think of us as sons and discipline us when we need it.)

## FRIDAY

*Read Hebrews 12:5-11*

After talking about how God loves us, thinks of us as His children and seeks to teach us to avoid sin and chose right, can you see why the Bible says to not take discipline lightly?

Does this mean that discipline is easy to endure, to go through? *Allow answers*

No, it’s not. Listen to verse 11 again. It tells us discipline seems painful, not good. But what happens to us later as we learn from discipline? The verse says we yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness. This means we become better followers of Jesus. We love others more, love God more and make choices that please Him!

The end of the verse tells us this happens to those who are trained by discipline. If you ignore it, you will not learn from it. What a strange but wonderful promise of God!

**Application:** Discipline is not fun, but it does good work in our lives if we are careful to learn from it.

**PRAY** (God, help us to endure discipline and learn from it)

## THURSDAY

*Read Hebrews 12:5-11*

Listen to verse 9 again. This verse says we have earthy fathers who discipline us. We show respect to our earthy fathers. How much more should we show respect to our heavenly Father? Even respect to the discipline He sends us? Why? Listen to verse 10 again.

Why are we discipline, both by our parents and by God? The Bible says it is for our good, that we may share in God’s holiness. What could this mean?

When God disciplines us, it is because we have sinned. Sometimes He disciplines us to make us aware that we have sinned. Other times to teach us the danger and destruction of sin. Through discipline, we learn to avoid what is wrong and seek to follow God and do right. Discipline is like training for something. In this case, it is training to be more like Jesus!

**Application:** Discipline is for our good, to train and teach us to avoid sin and live a holier life.

**PRAY** (Ask God to help us learn the lesson He seeks to teach us through His discipline)

## SATURDAY

What an interesting promise from God. That He will discipline us. If we are unwilling to learn from God, to accept that His ways are the best for us we will have a hard time believing this promise is a good one for us.

But let me ask you this: Do you love God and want to follow His ways? Do believe they are best? Do you want to live a life that reflects the character of Jesus to people?

Now let me ask this: Do you always do this? If not, how can you learn when you don’t? How can you be taught the dangers of sin? *Allow answers*

Through God’s discipline. Because He loves you and wants what is best for you He will discipline you when you need it. He is a good Father. What would you think if you were never disciplined when you did wrong? You’d think it was okay and keep doing it. God wants more and better for you!

**Application:** God promises discipline because He loves us and wants what is best for us.

**PRAY** (Thank God for loving us enough to discipline us when we need it)