

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 11, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 12:9-11

Memory Passage: 2 Corinthians 4:17

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 12:9-10.** What is the honor that is due to God when He disciplines us? Why should the honor we give Him be above that which we give our earthly fathers?
- (b) Read Malachi 1:6-14. What were some of the ways that Israel was dishonoring God? What are some of the ways Christians dishonor God today?
- (c) How would “despising” the discipline of God (Hebrews 12:5) be dishonoring to God? What are some ways that believers dishonor God when they are going through suffering and trials?
- (d) What should be our response to the trials that our Father allows to come into our lives (James 4:7; Philippians 2:14-16)?
- (e) Read 1 Peter 5:6-11. Make a list of the things that Peter tells us to do when we go through times of suffering. Make another list of what God will do for us. *When* will He do these things (1 Peter 5:10)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 12:9-10 and 1 Peter 5:6-11. Discuss what it means to honor those in authority over you. Why is this important in every area of life? *When* do you find it hardest to honor them? Why is it even more important to honor God and submit to whatever He allows in your life? What is God’s promise to all who “humble” themselves in times of suffering? Pray together for someone that is going through a difficult time.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 12:10.** How is God’s discipline different from that of our parents?
- (b) What is God’s *goal* in disciplining us (Hebrews 12:10)? Why has He saved us (Colossians 1:22; Titus 2:14)?
- (c) Read Ephesians 5:1-10. Who are we to be imitators of? How do children imitate their parents? What are some things that a child of God should not participate in? What is Paul exhorting these believers to do (Ephesians 5:10)?
- (d) Read 1 Peter 1:13-19. What does Peter say about our relationship to God as our Father? How should this motivate holy living?
- (e) What are we to “keep our hope fixed on” according to 1 Peter 1:13? How does this help us to avoid legalism?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 12:10 and Ephesians 5:1-10. Talk about what it means to be an imitator. Why do children do this? What should our desire as believers be? What are some of the things that we should imitate God in? What are some things we should avoid if we are followers of Christ? Thank God for being a loving Father who disciplines us for our good (and His glory).

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 12:11.** How does discipline seem to us when we are going through it? How affective would discipline be if it was joyful?
- (b) *How long* does discipline seem difficult? What are we told to compare this difficult time with in Romans 8:16-17?
- (c) Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-10. What kinds of trials and difficulties did Paul face? What was his desire in those trials (see verses 7 and 10)?
- (d) Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Why did Paul say they did not “lose heart?” How was this a concern in Hebrews 12:3?
- (e) How did a focus on the glory ahead keep Paul from losing heart? What did Paul mean by “momentary, light afflictions?” How does a right understanding of rewards keep us enduring even in difficult situations?
- (f) *Family:* Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. Discuss what happens to us when we suffer for the Lord. How are we changed inside? What keeps Christians from being discouraged when they go through suffering? How does thinking about heaven help us to be encouraged even in difficult times? Do you know someone that seems discouraged? Ask God to show you how you can be an instrument to encourage this person this week.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 12:11.** *When* do we see the results of God’s discipline in our lives? What is the problem with looking for results too soon?
- (b) Read Genesis 42:29-38. What was Jacob’s reaction when he heard the news about his sons (verse 36)?
- (c) What did God do for his whole family through this situation (Genesis 47:12)? What is the problem with looking at the present?
- (d) Why did Paul tell the Galatian Christians to keep on serving and not lose heart (Galatians 6:9-10)? What did he tell the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 15:58? What did the writer of the Hebrews remind his readers (Hebrews 6:10)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Galatians 6:9-10 and Hebrews 6:10. Talk about discouragement. Why do people get discouraged and give up. How does the reward of the Lord keep us from discouragement? Why should we not base our joy on the present? Talk about someone you know that needs to know the Lord. Pray together for his salvation.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Hebrews 12:11.** Does *every* Christian experience this “harvest of righteousness?” Explain.

(b) Who does? What does this tell you about holiness and righteousness? Does every Christian please God and bear the fruit of righteousness?

(c) What reference to “exercise” did the writer begin chapter 12 with? What disciplines are required to run the race?

(d) Why does an athlete discipline himself (2 Timothy 2:5-7)? What did Paul discipline himself for (1 Corinthians 9:24-25)? What is the difference between their prize and ours?

(e) How does a person get this harvest of peace and righteousness (1 Timothy 4:6-8; 4:12-16; Hebrews 5:14; 2 Timothy 2:15)?

(f) *Family:* Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7. Discuss the value of exercise. What three illustrations of serving Christ does Paul give to Timothy? Talk about each one. What are some of the hardships and difficulties each of these would face? Why do each of these keep on doing what is required of them no matter how difficult things get? How are these illustrations of “exercise” in the Christian life that produces fruit? Pray that of you would “discipline himself for the purpose of godliness.”

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Hebrews 12:9-11. How does grumbling and complaining during times of suffering dishonor God? How is suffering and discipline for our good? What are some things God does for our good through it? Pray for worship services tomorrow, that believers might trust the love of God in their difficulties and be a testimony to those who don't know Christ.

DATE: June 11, 2006

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Resting in the Discipline of the Lord
“afterwards it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness...”