

# GROWTH GROUPS

March 25, 2012

Hebrews 12:4-13

## **Conversation Starter -**

*Recall a way that one of your parents disciplined you as a child and share that with the group. How did you respond to this discipline?*

## **Understanding -**

As the recipients of this letter faced severe persecution, God desired that they understand hardship as the loving discipline of God. Not only discipline that is directly related to bad behavior, but also discipline that brings them into alignment with God's will. (ie. The way an athlete disciplines her body by voluntarily enduring hardship in order to bring about better results.)

1. In order for us to receive God's discipline well, we must align ourselves with His goal for our life. Verse 10 reveals God's goal for our life. What is this goal? What would you say your own personal goal for your life is? Does God's goal align with your own goal?
2. The concept that God would allow terrible tragedy and pain in our life as a form of discipline is difficult to accept. In this difficulty, God encourages us to consider Jesus, whose struggle with sin resulted in the shedding of his blood. (v.4) How does being mindful of Jesus' struggle with sin help as we struggle ourselves?
3. Discipline is almost always unwelcome in the moment as a painful experience, but verse 11 teaches that in the end the result of discipline is greater peace and righteousness. What examples from your life support this principle? (*Romans 5:3-5 and James 1:2-4 may be helpful verses to think about this.*)
4. What practical steps can you take to receive God's discipline well in the future?