

Theme: God Disciplines His Sons

Objective: To see that God's discipline in our life is a great thing.

Memory Verse: From memory or by looking it up, write I Peter 1:7

Opening Question: Last week, we completed the sentence, "By Faith, _____" In this past week, how did you demonstrate your faith?

Read Hebrews 12:1-13

- In your family growing up, who was the disciplinarian?
- How would you characterize the way your parents carried out discipline? Is this style similar or different than your own style of discipline? Why is it that way?
- Discipline can be defined in different ways (discipline as a *consequence* and discipline as an *attitude or focus*). When you read this passage, which way did you read it? Do you see God as one who carries out *consequences* for sinful decisions or God as one who helps us develop a righteous *attitude*?
- What does it mean to throw off sin and hindrances? More than sin, what hinders you from living a righteous and holy life?
- The author of Hebrews talks about perseverance. What conclusion can you draw from this?
- When have you totally "fixed your eyes upon Jesus?" What does that look like?
- When have you had Joy when doing something that you did not want to do, but it was for the Kingdom of God?
- Verse 3: How does Christ's example give you hope in the midst of adversity?
- Verse 4: What does the author imply by, "in your struggle against sin?" Is he acknowledging that we WILL struggle with sin? The author compares our struggle with sin with Jesus' interaction with sin. What is the main difference?
- Verses 5-6: Do these verses bring your comfort or discomfort?
- What does hardship demonstrate about a person's relationship with God?
- How does Christ's discipline differ from human discipline?
- When has God's discipline resulted in peace for you?
- Verse 13: Is the write referring to physically being lame or spiritually being lame?
- How are we to strengthen our feeble arms and weak knees?

Application: What area of your life needs more discipline? How will you strengthen yourself to reap a harvest of righteousness?

Worship: Read Psalm 25. Focus on God's discipline in your life.

Prayer Requests

Make plans to gather for a Christmas meal in the next week.