

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 4, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 12:4-11

Memory Passage: Revelation 12:11

**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 12:3-4.** *Who* are we told to look to so that we will not become discouraged in times of trials?
- (b) According to 1 Peter 2:21-25, *who* should be our example when we face times of trial and suffering?
- (c) We all have a tendency to be defensive and react when attacked. How did Jesus handle the “contradiction of sinners” against him (1 Peter 2:21-25)?
- (d) Should we think it strange when we go through trials (1 Peter 4:1)? What should be our attitudes and actions in sufferings?
- (e) How do trials affect our minds? What does 1 Peter 4:19 encourage us to do? How will this help us in trials?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 12:3-4 and 1 Peter 2:21-25. Discuss how we respond whenever someone hurts us. What is the proper way to respond? How was Jesus treated? How did he respond? What response pleases God? Pray for some situations that you are facing; pray that you will be able to follow in Jesus’ steps in suffering.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 12:4-5.** What does the writer remind his reader in verse 4? What does he mean by this? Think of some example of this kind of faith that we saw in Hebrews 11. What are some other examples of this faith in the NT?
- (b) Read Revelation 12:11. How did these believers overcome Satan?
- (c) Read Proverbs 3:11-12 and Hebrews 12:5. What are the two warnings that the writer gives?
- (d) What does it mean to “despise (or, make light of) the discipline of the Lord? What does it mean to “faint” when we are rebuked by him?
- (e) What is the proper response to the discipline of the Lord? Why do we need to be reminded of this during times of trials? How were these Hebrew Christians struggling and how would this encourage them?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 12:4-5 and Revelation 12:11. What is discipline and why is it important? What are two ways that Christians wrongly view discipline? How were the believers in Revelation 12:11 victorious in their faith? How is this similar to Hebrews 12:4? Pray for one another that you will love the Lord even more than life itself.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 12:6-10.** What encouragement does he give these suffering believers in verse 6? How is this similar to Romans 8:36-39? How does the love of God encourage us to endure in times of suffering?
- (b) Read Proverbs 13:24. What does this passage tell us about discipline? How is discipline “loving?”
- (c) If they were not experiencing any discipline, what conclusion does he warn them of in verses 7-8? If a person can sin and never be disciplined by God, what conclusion should be made about his salvation?
- (d) Read 1 Corinthians 11:30-32 and 1 Peter 4:17-18. How is God’s judgment of believers different from that of non-believers?
- (e) What comparison does he make with the discipline of earthly fathers in Hebrews 12:10? Do fathers always discipline their children properly? Did your father ever make a mistake in discipline? Does God?
- (f) *Family:* Hebrews 12:6-10 and Proverbs 13:24. How is discipline encouraging? What is one of the evidences that a person is really a believer? Does God judge His children? Does He ever make a mistake in His judgment? Spend some time thanking God for His wonderful mercy in judgment. Sing together, “Great Is Their Faithfulness.”

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 12:10.** *How* does God discipline us for our good? After David was disciplined by God for his sin, what did he conclude about the value of discipline in his life (Psalm 119:67, 71)?
- (b) What is God’s *goal* in disciplining us (Hebrews 12:10)? Why does He allow suffering in our lives (Romans 8:28-29)?
- (c) What did Job learn from his suffering (Job 42:4-6)? Was Job suffering because of his sin? What did he gain from his suffering? Explain how this is a reason that God allows His children to experience suffering.
- (d) Read 1 Peter 5:9-11. What does God promise to do through the discipline of His children?
- (e) Why does God allow Paul to be afflicted with the “thorn in the flesh” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)? How does humility among God’s children give Him glory and honor?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 12:10 and Psalm 119:67-71. Share some ways that the discipline of your parents was beneficial for you life. What does God’s discipline accomplish in our lives? What sins did David commit and how did God judge him? What did David say about the discipline of God on his life in Psalm 119:67-71? Pray that you might remember the love of God and the goal of God in your times of suffering and affliction. Pray for someone who is struggling with suffering right now.

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

- (a) **Read Hebrews 12:11.** What *logical* and *common* statement does the writer make about discipline that everyone would agree with?
- (b) How does correction feel for those being corrected (Proverbs 15:10)? Why should parents discipline even though the experience is not pleasant (Proverbs 19:18)?
- (c) What two positives does the discipline of the Lord provide for us? Why do you think the writer calls these a “harvest” (Galatians 5:22-23)?
- (d) Read Isaiah 32:17 and James 3:18. How do peace and righteousness go together? Can a person have real peace apart for righteousness and holiness?
- (e) How does a person get this harvest of peace and righteousness (1 Timothy 4:7-8; 4:12-16; Hebrews 5:14; 2 Timothy 2:15)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 12:10 and Galatians 5:22-23. Discuss some of the benefits of God’s discipline on our lives. Why does the writer describe these benefits as a “harvest?” Look at the fruit of the Spirit – what does God desire to produce in your life? What is one of the best ways to discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness (2 Timothy 2:15)? Pray that you will hear God’s Word and allow your lives to be shaped and changed by it.

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

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Hebrews 12:4-11. What are the two wrong responses to discipline in this passage? How is discipline an encouragement to true believers? What does discipline produce in our lives? Pray for worship services tomorrow, that believers might be encouraged through the Word of God and others might hear the Word and come to Christ.

**DATE:** June 4, 2006

**PASSAGE:** Hebrews 12:4-11

***Understanding the Discipline of the Lord***

*“My son, do not despise the discipline of the LORD...”*