



DISCUSSION GUIDE JUNE 27, 2021

Dive In

For you, does the word *discipline* have a positive or negative connotation? Why? Might it depend on your temperament or past experiences?

Would you characterize yourself as someone who is disciplined? Do you have a role in disciplining others and, if so, are you comfortable doing it? Why or why not?

Who are we most apt to accept discipline from? Whose discipline are we more likely to chafe against?

Dig Deep

Scripture: **Hebrews 12:1-13**

Hebrews 12:1-3

- How are we, as followers of Christ to “run” our race in our new life?
- How will fixing “our eyes on Jesus” help us not “grow weary and lose heart”?

Hebrews 12:4-6

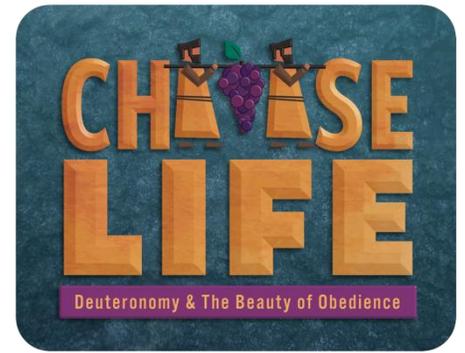
- What are two ways we might misunderstand or misapply the Lord’s discipline?

Hebrews 12:7-13

- What is the purpose of God’s discipline for His children?
- How should we respond to the discipline we will experience from our Father in heaven?

Do Big

Richard Foster outlines 12 practices in his book, *The Spiritual Disciplines*.: Meditation • Prayer • Fasting • Study • Simplicity • Solitude • Submission • Service • Confession • Worship • Guidance • Celebration. Have any of these been a regular practice in your life? How can these help you build spiritual muscles? This week, pick one of these (perhaps one you have never tried before) to do each day. Be prepared to discuss with your group how it went. Encourage one another throughout the week to be faithful in the practice. Team up with one or two others for a particularly difficult one to spur each other on and be accountable.



LEADERS

Study Text:

Deuteronomy 28:15-68; Hebrews 12:1-13

Background:

Those who envision a life free from difficulty, pain, and sacrifice never experience the encouragement of a purpose filled life with Christ. Conversely believers who embrace discipline and endure training experience a joyful loving purpose. Heb. 11:13; 12:5

By accepting God’s discipline understand that your struggle will at times, be with those who those who do not share your faith. *Hebrews 12:4* Be encouraged to know that there is no circumstance beyond God’s control and no situation where God cannot carry out His purpose. Consequently, you can trust God’s discipline as training for your life and as evidence of His love for you. Heb. 12:5-7

The point of God’s discipline is always for your good and to develop the character of God in your life. Heb. 12:9-10

Memory Verse:

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.” **James 1:2-3**