

## Small group optional guide: The Fathers Heart- Discipline

### UP; we grow in our love for Jesus through His word and worship

**WORD:** key passage Hebrews 12:4-8

- I believe the truths in this text are a must for every believer, and if you will get a hold of them and make them your own by faith, then God will do miraculous works through your life.

**Context:** the writer is addressing a primarily Hebrew community. These believers accepted they may have their land seized, they may be imprisoned, just for saying Jesus is my Lord and Saviour. Yet they joyfully accepted these things because they clearly saw the better possession and treasure they had received in Christ. (Hebrews 10:32-34)

When we come to Hebrews 11, we are given a whole list of believers who lived and died by faith, heroes of faith, and yet did not see the fulfilment of the promise.

All of these heroes lived, suffered and died, yet remained in faith and so were – v34 made strong out of weakness

- All these believers expected suffering BECAUSE they were Christians, and Hebrews 12, into this context explains the Father's love, through discipline

**Content:** One of the biggest question is life, asked by the early disciples, the early church, us today: why does suffering still happen to believers?

Options for answers: 1) its all life's chance / 2) it's all from the devil...or is the answer in v7 it is the discipline of God?

Greek word for Discipline – *Paideia*. The Lord's Education, training; correction; Paideia was the idea of training a child, to become a valuable member of society. In order for this, one would be educated, and trained. Everything a parent or guardian may do for their child to cultivate their soul, including any correction, curbing passions, or protection

against what could be harmful is in this word.

The picture here in Hebrews 12 is of a Father who is training children fit for the Kingdom of God.

- The Fathers discipline should not be viewed as punishment, why, Jesus was punished in our place - as we sing “Because the sinless saviour died, my sinful soul is counted free, for God the just was satisfied to look on him and pardon me”

I sometimes hear phrases from believers like “maybe God is punishing me for what I did” But this isn't how we are to see any suffering. And Jesus received this training: Hebrews 5:8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered

- Terry Virgo once put it like this to me “Before God can use a man he must first knock the stuffing out of him.”

- In that moment I swapped victim for sonship

3 reasons for Gods discipline: **Correction**; Jonah, David, Peter / **Prevention**; sin is serious, lead us not into temptation is a prevention prayer / **Education**; Luke 22:31-34 Peter needs educating, why so that he can encourage others who are tempted to run away!  
2 Warnings; Heb 12:5 you could take it lightly & don't get weary of discipline

4 Wonders: v6 He loves you / v7 He is treating you as a son / v9 for eternal life / v10 that we would share his holiness!

**Conclusion:** How do I know if God will discipline me?.....Are you his Child?

Questions to consider:

Q) Did you suffer any persecution for choosing to follow Jesus?

Q) How do you know if your suffering is God's discipline or is attack? (is it the answer that will bring you peace or is it the love of the Father?)

# FEATURED EVENTS



Joining JCC Course

Wed Jun 12, 2024

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Board Room



Real Parenting 2024

Thu Jun 13, 2024

7:30 PM - 9:15 PM

Amazon Studio



CAP money coaching

Tue Jul 9, 2024

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Jubilee Community Centre

## COURSES

Please sign up to the courses offered this term, starting this week with **Real parenting** and **Joining Jubilee**:

- Please go to the featured events and sign up

**WORSHIP songs:** In Christ alone / Who you say I am / God I look to you / Consuming fire

**OUT; we reach out to show people outside of JCC that God loves them**

- What plans have you made as a small group to reach out to friends/family/neighbours over this next half term and over the summer?
- Plan a social, picnic, bbq and write down the names that you would like to invite; pray for them tonight
- Plan who will host, pick a date and time...send the invites this week

**IN; we connect and learn to love one another**

Matt: testimony of God's provision but God took Matt to a place where his joy was found in trusting God regardless of the outcome...but so wonderful that the outcome was wonderful

Tracey: testimony of God's miraculous healing from potential brain tumour and MS. After 15 years of MS her latest scan was completely clear, the consultant had no explanation for this - hallelujah!

Helen: DEATH is defeated but we are not called to wait until glory to experience the victory of Christ in our lives; what area in your life do you not see the victory of Christ yet? Insecurity? Fear? Anxiety? Let us pursue seeing the victory of Christ in our lives today!