

The Discipline of God

Hebrews 12:4-14

3-8-15

1. Pastor Jim mentioned that our journeys of faith can be exhilarating *and* dangerous. It's easy to get tangled in sin, get tired and abandon good form or become overconfident and bring injury on ourselves. Have you ever been overconfident on your journey of faith? How so? Did God address the issue at hand? If so, how?
2. Hebrews 12:5-6 tells us that God will discipline us when we drift into behaviors that are dangerous to ourselves and to others. Not only will God speak a word of warning to us but he will also take action to correct us. Have you ever been disciplined by God? Explain. What were the results and what specifically did you learn about God and/or your own behaviors?
3. Read Hebrews 12:9-13. What is God's discipline designed to do? How is discipline an example of God's great love for us? If you are a parent, think of a time when you had to discipline your children. Does this help you better understand God's discipline? What is the promise to those who are trained by discipline? How can God's discipline save you from a future of strife and pain?
4. Pastor Jim mentioned that God tells us when He is disciplining us. Do you think it's a good thing that God tells us when He is disciplining us? Why or why not?
5. See Hebrews 12:9. What is the proper response to God's discipline and what does it look like practically? (See also Proverbs 3:11-12).
6. Take time to pray as a group. Ask God to reveal areas where He has disciplined you. Thank God for His faithfulness to keep you on the narrow path. Reflect on the valuable lessons learned through God's discipline and how they can lead you to greater holiness.