



Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Hebrews 12:4-13

Overview: In this passage, the author reminds us that through Christ we have been adopted as God's children. Just as earthly fathers discipline their children, so too our Heavenly Father disciplines those who are truly His children. Ultimately, this passage encourages us to endure our trials by remembering that we have a Heavenly Father who always disciplines us perfectly for our eternal good.



Into the Word

In verse 9 the author uses the analogy of earthly fathers to help us understand the heart of our Heavenly Father. **Consider verses 6-8.** How is discipline an expression of love? Consider: Ephesians 1:5; Romans 5:8, 1 John 3:1

Resource: Adoption into God's Family

According to verses 10-11, what is the reason God brings trials into our lives? Can you think of examples in your life where discipline led to growth?

Compare: James 1:2-4

Compare verses 5 and 9. What are the various ways we can respond to God's discipline? According to verse 5, why do we respond to trials the way we do?



Into the Heart

Why is it important to distinguish between the imperfect character of our earthly parents and the perfect character of our Heavenly Father? How will this affect our relationship with God?

Consider a painful experience from your past or present. How will accepting this as evidence of God's fatherly love lead to healing or growth in your Christian life?

Consider: Romans 8:37-39; Genesis 50:20

Resource: Why Joni Eareckson Tada Praises God for Not Healing Her



Into the World

Our Heavenly Father not only lovingly disciplines us through trials but calls us to support one another (v. 12-13). How has God used fellow believers to strengthen you?

How can we be a strengthening presence those who are weary and overwhelmed?

Consider: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; Romans 12:15

Resource: Embracing Weakness in Christian Life



Growth Group Prayer Guide

“He always lives to make intercession for them” (Heb 7:25)

Use the prayers below to root your prayer for one another in Scripture.

Heavenly Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, according to the riches of your glory, grant us (or _____) to be strengthened with power through your Spirit, so that Christ may dwell in our (his, her) heart(s) through faith —that being rooted and grounded in love, we (he, she) may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that we (he, she) may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Based on Ephesians 3:15-19))

God of endurance and encouragement, grant us to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together we may with one voice glorify you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Based on Romans 15:5-6)

God of hope, fill us (or _____) with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we (he, she) may abound in hope. (Based on Romans 15:13)

Lord Jesus Christ, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort our hearts (or the heart of _____) and establish us (him, her) in every good work and word. (Based on 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

O Lord, help us (or _____) always to rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and be constant in prayer. (Based on Romans 12:12)

God our Savior, help us (or _____) to faithfully intercede in prayer with supplication and thanksgiving for all people in positions of power, that we (he, she) may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way, which is pleasing to you. (Based on 1 Timothy 2:1-3)

*“Prayer is nothing but taking God’s promises to him, and saying to him, “Do as thou hast said.”
Prayer is the promise utilized.” - Charles Spurgeon*