

## Father's Day 2024

### Discipline

#### Day 1:

(Hebrews 12:5-6) *Remember the exhortation regarding the discipline of the Lord.*

*And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:*

*“My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD,*

*Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

*For whom the LORD loves He chastens,*

*And scourges every son whom He receives.”*

You have forgotten: One great reason for the discouragement among these Jewish Christians was because they saw no reason why God would allow difficult times to arise. They forgot principles regarding the chastening of the LORD.

1. In your opinion, why would God allow difficult times to arise?

A lot difficulty in the Christian life comes from those three words: you have forgotten. Perhaps it is some principle we remember in the mind but have forgotten in the heart and we must remember it again.

2. In light of the statement, “You have forgotten,” Does your opinion change about why God allows hard times? Why or why not?

## Day 2

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In times of trial or stress many Christians forget some of the basics. They seriously wonder if God is still in control or if He still loves them. We must admit that God does allow every thing that happens; so He must at least passively approve of it, because He certainly has the power to stop bad things that happen.

1. Thoughts?

Of course, God can never be the author of evil. But He does allow others to choose evil, and He can use the evil choice another makes to work out His ultimately good purpose, even if only to demonstrate His justice and righteousness in contrast to evil.

2. Thoughts?

### Day 3

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“Which speaks to you as sons:” The quotation from Proverbs 3:11-12 reminds us that God’s chastening should never be taken as a sign of His rejection. It is rather a sign of His treating us as His children.

1. Thoughts?

Only the most proud Christian would claim they are never in need of correction from God. No one is above this training.

2. Thoughts?

## Day 4

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*For whom the LORD loves He chastens,*

*And scourges every son whom He receives.”*

“Do not despise the chastening of the LORD:” When chastening comes it is an offense to God when we despise it. Chastening is His loving tool of correction and we should receive it gratefully. This is the training we need to run the race we must run with endurance (Hebrews 12:1-2).

### 1. Thoughts?

“I have often heard a father say, ‘Boy, if you cry for that you shall have something to cry for by-and-by.’ So, if we murmur at a little God gives us something that will make us cry. If we groan for nothing, he will give us something that will make us groan.” (Spurgeon)

### 2. Thoughts?

## Day 5

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Chastening should not be regarded as the only reason God allows difficult times, but it is an important one. For example, we know that God allows difficult times so that we can, at a later time, comfort someone else with the same comfort God shows towards us in our crisis (2 Corinthians 1:3-7).

1. Thoughts?

This is why James recommends a prayer for wisdom in the context of enduring trials (James 1:2-5). We need to know how to react differently when God does different things.

2. Thoughts?