

# 'Desperate Households'

Things are not always as they seem... Part 2

## Hebrews 12:5-13 (NLT)

### Ice Breaker ?

What's the best parenting tip, trick, or technique you have ever heard or used?

Why do you like it so much?

### Be Sure to:

- Pray before you begin. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- Read the text slowly to **OBSERVE** what is truly being said.
- Mark any key words, questions, themes, etc. that you wish to explore further.
- Try and understand the author's perspective and time period as you **INTERPRET**.
- Find and share the timeless **APPLICATION** to your life.
- Close with personal prayer & prayer for the church/world.

*<sup>5</sup> And have you entirely forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you, his children? He said, "My child, don't ignore it when the Lord disciplines you, and don't be discouraged when he corrects you. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes those he accepts as his children."*

*<sup>7</sup> As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Whoever heard of a child who was never disciplined? <sup>8</sup> If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children after all. <sup>9</sup> Since we respect our earthly fathers who disciplined us, should we not all the more cheerfully submit to the discipline of our heavenly Father and live forever?*

*<sup>10</sup> For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always right and good for us because it means we will share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening--it is painful! But afterward there will be a quiet harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.*

*<sup>12</sup> So take a new grip with your tired hands and stand firm on your shaky legs. <sup>13</sup> Mark out a straight path for your feet. Then those who follow you, though they are weak and lame, will not stumble and fall but will become strong."*

## Observation Questions:

1. What principles, facts, and truths do you observe about 'divine discipline' from this passage?
2. What do we learn about God's heart in discipline? What is His purpose? How does it compare to our earthly father's discipline?
3. How should/do we respond to God's correction? What are the benefits of responding well...for us and for others? (see v. 11, 13)

## Interpretation/Application Questions:

### Pray Together:

Please take some time to pray as a group and...to pray personally throughout the week.

### Calvary Requests:

- For mom's and dad's struggling with discipline issues.
- For disobedient and rebellious children to honor and obey their God, their parents, and other authorities.
- For unity in God's family and for the courage to discipline biblically and with the right motives/attitude.
- Our ongoing www.buildinghomebase.com campaign & project.

### Personal/Group Requests

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### Calvary Bible Church

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1. The writer of Hebrews asks the question: 'Who ever heard of a child who was never disciplined?' To the writer, it was a somewhat rhetorical question, implying the answer, "No one has!" But to us, undisciplined children seem to be 'on the rise' and becoming the 'norm.' In your opinion, why is this so?

Why do we seem so ready to ignore God's (and our parent's) discipline, to be discouraged by it rather than encouraged, and to give up so quickly in the process of correction and training in righteousness?

2. In today's post-modern culture we tend not to think of God as a God of Discipline and Punishment, but as a God of Forgiveness and Grace. He is both. But, how can a limited or one-sided view of God skew our understanding of His character? For example, some say 9/11 was an example of God's discipline on America. Others say, God would never allow/do that (which is an unbiblical statement), but that it was his grace that was most seen on that day of human evil. How does your biblical understanding of God and His process of discipline inform your thoughts on this challenging subject?
3. Which of the parenting principles talked about this weekend seems most encouraging or challenging? Why? Share some examples.

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|---|-------------|
| a) Start soon so you won't raise a loon       |             |
| b) Discipline for motivation, not humiliation |             |
| c) When you give in no one will win           |             |
| d) Give proper pay when they disobey          | <b>OR</b>   |
| e) Call it tight and you will do them right   | CLARITY     |
| f) When you're specific, you'll be prolific   | CONSISTENCY |
| g) A bribe sends a bad vibe                   | UNITY       |
| h) Spare the rod, spoil the child             | PERSONALITY |
|   | APOLOGY     |

4. Another 'household' in desperate need of godly discipline is the church. In 1 Cor. 5:1 Paul expresses shock at the type of sinful behavior that the family of God was allowing. Read Matthew 18:15-17, Titus 3:10, and 2 Thess. 3:14-15 and discuss our responsibility as member's of God's own household with regard to Biblical Discipline. Do you think the church should still practice these principles? Why or why not? What would be the benefits if we did? What should be our attitude and ultimate goal in church discipline (2 Cor. 2:5-11)?

### Memory Verse(s) for the Week:

**Heb 12:10-11 (NIV)**

"Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. "