

Growth Group Questions

Getting to Know Each Other

Once again we get the chance to think about God as our loving Father. This time, though, the focus is on enduring hardship and recognizing it as discipline from God. As a group, discuss discipline by human parents. How does love shape every discipline effort?

Into the Word

- The “great cloud of witnesses” refers to the list of believers in Hebrews 11. Review the list and talk about any that might be less familiar. Who is your favorite Biblical hero of faith?
- Discuss how Jesus is the pioneer(author) AND perfecter of faith. Why is it accurate to talk about him as the beginning and completion of faith?
- What is the author’s line of thought as he quotes the proverbs on discipline? How does discipline remind us of our relationship with God?
- In what ways does the text show God’s discipline as superior that that of earthly parents? (esp. vv 9-11)

Into my Life

- Why is it difficult for us to recognize hardship as a blessing? As you think of some of America’s most popular preachers do they teach hardship as loving discipline or divine punishment?
- Every believer is a member of someone else’s “cloud of witnesses.” How does that thought encourage you as you consider your life and choices? Who could you reach out to this week to encourage in faith?
- How do we talk about passages like these when we talk to people that never had a loving father? How can that be a challenge to sharing faith? How can that be an opportunity?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, bless me in times of joy and hardship to know that you are my loving God. Help me to see your hand in all I face and lead me to set a Christian example in my life. In Jesus, Amen.

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