

**HOME**  
**Discipline**  
**Hebrews 12:1-13**

**“Take my hand.”** Those used to be the most terrifying words that I could possibly hear. They were spoken by my father just before he applied the **“belt of truth”** to my **disobedient bottom!** It is kind of remarkable that the words are quite often used by parents to bring PROTECTION and COMFORT to their children. It was not comforting to me at the time, but it did serve for my protection. **Today, we are talking about a necessary aspect of parenting: Discipline.**

Life is a struggle. God allowed this so that we might GROW in our faith and grow INTIMATE in our love of God. There will never be a time when we will not need discipline in our lives . . . until HEAVEN! **Our children must see our response to God’s discipline in our lives so that they can be encouraged about how to respond to it in their own lives!** This morning, we will look at how we discipline our children through the lens of how God disciplines us. May God use this for his glory and our good!

I want us to begin this topic by remembering the OVERARCHING PASSAGE that we as pastors chose some 2 months ago for this series. **Psalm 127:1 NIV**

**1 Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.**

**God is building his Kingdom through us by first building his Kingdom IN us.** Each of us are the **“WORKMANSHIP of God”** spoken of in Ephesians 2. God is doing the building. We are simply responding to HIS work. I am so glad to know that God is the One doing the work in us. If it was up to us, we would fail! God never fails. This brings to mind the word that God spoke to me after my salvation; a verse that has become my life theme: **“Being confident of this one thing: He that has BEGUN his good work in you WILL PERFORM IT until the day of Christ Jesus!”** I am so grateful for that. He will not stop working in me until that work has come to completion!

**What is the GOAL of our Christian life?** How about this? **Hebrews 12:1-4 NIV**

**1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. 4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.**

This must be our heart and goal with our children! We will not stop working with them until we see the FRUIT that we are looking for IN THEM. **What FRUIT do you want to help develop in your children’s lives?** What will bring GOD the greatest glory, YOU

the greatest JOY, and THEM the greatest BENEFITS in their lifetime? Before you discipline your children, you MUST DETERMINE what it is that you are trying to PRODUCE in them so that you can FIRMLY CARRY OUT your purpose in that discipline. If you do not, then your disciplinary actions will just be RANDOM OUTBURSTS that send out CONFUSING SIGNALS.

\*NAME THE FRUIT YOU WANT TO HARVEST IN YOUR KIDS

**Need a List? Galatians 5:22-23 NLT**

As we begin to look at the discipline that is REQUIRED of us as parents, we must remember this truth: **DISCIPLINE OUGHT TO BE EXPECTED.**

I think we have to REMIND ourselves of the REMINDERS that are found throughout God's word that discipline is a CONSTANT in our lives. It is not occasional, and it is not just needed for OUTRIGHT SIN. It is also meant to address "that which HINDERS us" as well! Anything that gets in the way of our progress and maturity needs to be corrected through discipline. **We should EXPECT that to be the case for ourselves, and our children should expect it as well.** But, more often than not, we are caught off guard by discipline. **Hebrews 12:5-6 NIV**

**5 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."**

God's discipline does not come to us because of his ANGER, but because of his LOVE! This is a clear word. He deals with us as our FATHER, and this means that he loves us just as we are, but he loves us too much to let us simply remain as we are in our sin and immaturity. And discipline has many FORMS. Each of these mentioned in this passage applies to us and to our children.

-It starts with INSTRUCTION [**Discipline= TRAINING**]

We must not BEGIN with the belt. We begin with WORDS; not HARSH words, but HELPFUL words. **Jeremiah says that "God's Word is the HAMMER that breaks the rock!"** May our words be like that for our children, so that nothing more painful has to be applied to get our attention and response!

-It is followed by CORRECTION [**Also called REBUKE and REPROOF**]

Rebuke is a FIRM WORD of correction. It is not pleasant, but it does not need to be SCREAMED. It can be spoken calmly. **My dad used to do that to me and my brothers. His calm demeanor and firm countenance was TERRIFYING to us!** Do your kids KNOW what they did wrong? Have you given them a CLEAR word of WARNING before you gave them a FIRM REMINDER of WRONG? This kind of correction will often involve some kind of COST: The loss of a freedom or the revoking of a privilege. [No cell phone; No party; Time out; etc.]

-It is FINALLY brought to PUNISHMENT (if needed) [**CHASTENING, Scourging**]

This is the FINAL stage of discipline. It is the time when PAIN must be brought into the equation. I know there is much debate about this, but not in God's word! The pain spoken of in the Bible is not permanent pain, but MEMORABLE pain. It is not meant to leave SCARS. It is NOT ABUSIVE. It is not exercised in ANGER or RAGE. The kind of punishment spoken of here requires SELF-CONTROL. How could we expect to encourage self-control in our kids if we are LOSING IT with them in our discipline of them?

## **DISCIPLINE IS MEANT TO BE ENDURED.**

### **Hebrews 12:7-10 NIV**

**7 Endure hardship as discipline;** God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? **8 If you are not disciplined--and everyone undergoes discipline--then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.** **9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!** **10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.**

The TRAINING of our children ought to include teaching them to ENDURE HARDSHIP. Hardship comes in so many forms, but it ALL has the potential to strengthen us. **Here is one thing that I know for sure about our kid's lives (and our own lives!): Hardship is coming!** No doubt about it! Ready or not, here it comes! **What kind of MINDSET do YOU have about hardship?** *That is what you will communicate to your child.* **Would it not be WISE to teach your children that hardship is NOT their ENEMY, but a TOOL that God uses from this broken world to equip and strengthen his children.**

God disciplines his children because of his love for them. If someone does not experience discipline, then they should rightfully WONDER whether or not they actually are a CHILD of GOD or not! As a good Father, God will not fail to discipline his children. This is actually spoken in Proverbs in a SHOCKING manner: **Proverbs 13:24 NASB**  
**24 He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.**

Stunning, right? If you fail to discipline your child, you are not demonstrating that you LOVE him, but you are revealing that you HATE him! Why? Because you are leaving him at the mercy of his WORST ENEMIES by failing to EQUIP him against them. Which enemies? Sin, Endless Immaturity, Selfishness.

There is another truth that can be found in this passage. Discipline is not a MOMENTARY event. It is not a "quick whipping" and then right back to business. It is an ongoing reality that will last . . . a LIFETIME! The key to discipline is found in the concept of TRAINING. **Training is not just a swift response to a negative action, but it is ONGOING action for determined OUTCOMES.** The "little while" in this passage is referring to the ENTIRE 18 YEARS or so that our kids live under our roofs! And God's discipline lasts for the entire time we are under HIS "ROOF!"

We can also see in this passage that the KEY RESPONSE we should look for in our kids when we discipline them is that of SUBMISSION. Are they broken enough to submit to us in the area in which we had to discipline them? The goal is NOT to break their SPIRIT, but to break their WILL. This is how God deals with us as well. He wants us to embrace HIS WILL in our hearts.

### **DISCIPLINE WILL EVENTUALLY BRING ENJOYMENT. Hebrews 12:11-13 NIV**

11 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. 12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

It almost seems like these words do not need to be spoken, but they do. Discipline is PAINFUL. It is NOT FUN. It hurts. **It is not MEANT to be enjoyed, but it actually brings great joy when it accomplishes its goal!** I think that we are too often afraid to bring something into our children's lives that will cause them pain. But they must learn to associate DISOBEDIENCE with pain and loss. If they live disobedient lives, they will not only have constant pain in their own lives, they will bring it to others as well. [Stupid song I heard on the radio: "Long neck, ice cold beer never broke my heart." Really? Those are the words of a FOOL.]. Do you want to raise a fool? I didn't think so.

We want to raise children who KNOW JOY. We want them to TASTE the goodness of righteousness and peace in their lives. This is the goal of God's discipline in our lives, and it should be the goal of our discipline in our children's lives. Discipline is not meant to WEAKEN our children, but to STRENGTHEN their "feeble arms and weak knees." Oh, may this be so in each of our "God Built Homes!"

Let's pray.

**HOME**  
**Olive Branch Week 5 Facilitation Guide**  
**Discipline**

**Start talking**

What did discipline look like in your home?

**Start thinking.**

What are some ways that you have experienced God's discipline in your own life?  
[Bonus question: If you have children, have you ever shared those experiences with your kids?]

**Start sharing.**

[Read Hebrews 12:1-4](#). How do these words describe God's will for you and for your children?

[Read Hebrews 12:5-6](#). Why is it so easy to forget this "word of encouragement?" Talk about the difference between discipline as "instruction," discipline as "correction," and discipline as "punishment."

[Read Hebrews 12:7-10](#). How is hardship a necessary aspect of discipline? What does it mean to "endure hardship?"

[Read Hebrews 12:11-13](#). How can the pain of discipline lead to joy and peace? How does that help you as a parent? How does that help you as a child of God?

**Start praying.**

Ask God to give you the courage to accept God's discipline in your own life and the wisdom to apply it in your parenting.