

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE: 4 Nov 2018

Abba Pt 1: the Father's touch - Ps Mark Scholtz



WELCOME Open in prayer, and encourage members to lay aside the weeks burdens and focus on God.

WORSHIP "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." John 4:24(NIV)

TALK IT OVER: "For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." Hebrews 12:6 (NLT)

This is only a guide. Discuss the points you want to discuss.

"And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? 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 at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. 11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way." Hebrews 12:5-11 (NLT)

1. Do you remember when discipline from your parents saved you from harm? Why do some people not like the theme of this scripture? Why does God treat His children differently (referring to legitimate and illegitimate children)? Can anyone share how they have felt God's discipline in their lives? Is discipline loving? Re-read different versions of verse 6, and compare them.

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." Romans 8:17 (NIV)

2. Has the broader church explained these types of verses enough in society? Why do people not feel that God would discipline us? Share your view on why God disciplines us.

"When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket." Genesis 32:25

3. What does the wrestling with God represent? When have you, or what are you, wrestling with God about? What other examples can you think of in the Bible that show how people wrestled with God over things He wanted them to do? What did God do after He "touched" Jacobs hip? What was God trying to teach Him? Who of you is "Walking with a limp or a scar that saved you?"

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials." 1 Peter 1:3-6 (NIV)

4. How often do you think about the inheritance we are to receive from God? What does that look like to you? Why is it important to think about where we are going (and what we are to inherit) more often? (It will help us realise and put into perspective what we are going through and why.)

One of the enemy's greatest weapons is to create dissatisfaction in us with where we're at. He always wants to make us think that the discomforts we endure are a sign that God doesn't love us, or that He has it in for us. If he makes us feel like that, we will want to move out of the exact thing God is trying to use to sharpen you or strengthen you. Pray about what you may have experienced, and trust God to show you His love, no matter where you're at currently.

WORKS [GOING DEEPER IN PRAYER]

Let's pray together:

- As God leads ..