

Small Group Guide: The Wages of Sin and God's Redemptive Discipline

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. Society breaks down when God is removed from government, schools, and families.
2. Sin leads to confusion, broken relationships, and spiritual darkness.
3. God's discipline, though painful, is motivated by love and aimed at restoration.
4. Our response to God's discipline should be to look to Him, wait on Him, and confess our sins.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions 2 Chronicles 7:14. How can we apply this verse to our lives and our nation today?
2. Pastor Jeff talks about the church being "watchmen" in today's society. What does this mean to you, and how can we fulfill this role?
3. The sermon describes how sin affects society, from leadership down to family relationships. Can you identify examples of this in our current culture?
4. How does the story of the shepherd breaking the sheep's leg illustrate God's disciplinary love? Have you experienced something similar in your own life?
5. The pastor emphasizes the importance of confessing sin quickly. Why is this crucial, and what are some practical ways we can cultivate a habit of regular confession?
6. How can we maintain hope and faith when experiencing God's discipline or when witnessing the moral decline of society?

Practical Applications:

1. Commit to daily prayer for our nation, leaders, and society, using 2 Chronicles 7:14 as a guide.
2. Identify an area in your life where you may have pushed God to a lower priority. Make a plan to reorient that area around God's will.
3. Practice immediate confession of sin this week. Consider finding an accountability partner to help you in this process.
4. Look for opportunities to be "salt and light" in your workplace, neighborhood, or social circles this week.
5. Memorize Micah 7:8 as a reminder of God's faithfulness during times of discipline or darkness.

Closing Prayer

Encourage group members to reflect on the shepherd and sheep story throughout the week, considering how God might be using difficult circumstances to draw them closer to Him.