

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

Hebrews 12:3-13

Pressure Applied

- External pressure creates internal temptation
- To resist we need confident endurance

Proper Perspective

- God uses hardship to train and transform
- Receive discipline as evidence of His love
- Trust that no suffering is wasted

Embrace the Process

- God's discipline is shaping us for holiness
- Present suffering produces future fruit
- Keep eternity in view

Therefore...

- Strengthen what is weak
- Straighten where we run
- God's purposes are to heal and restore

For Life Group Discussion

Hebrews 12:3-13

1. What aspects of God's character and His dealings with humans is most mysterious to you? What is it about Him that is confusing or even troubling?
2. Read Hebrews 12:1-4. What is it about Jesus' experience that is supposed to strengthen us? How can our consideration of Him protect us from weariness of faintheartedness?
3. Read Proverbs 3:11-12 and Hebrews 12:5-6. What is the basis for God's Fatherly discipline? To whom does it apply?
4. Read Hebrews 12:7-9. How is this use of the word "discipline" different than punishment? How does his use of the words reproof and chastise help clarify the overall meaning?
5. Read Mat 5:11-12, James 1:2-4, and 1 Pet 1:3-7. What do these verses teach about suffering in general and suffering because of persecution specifically? How do they contribute to the author's point in Heb 12?
6. Read Heb 12:12-13 and the 3 points of application on the reverse. How do the truths revealed in our text help you in each area, and how can they help you encourage others? How specifically can God heal and restore us by applying the principles explained in Heb 12:3-13?