

**This guide is intended to help you be better prepared to make disciples in your small group. It is based on the Sunday sermon listed in the top right corner. If you missed Sunday, make sure you listen to the sermon before your small group meeting. The messages are also on our website.**

**Prayerfully considering these questions will help equip you to practice mutual ministry with your family at Vertical. While it's not likely that all of these questions will be asked during your small group meeting, we believe that your personal walk with Christ will be strengthened as you meditate upon the truths that God is teaching you through His Word.**

1. How does the concept of 'gracious consequences' challenge or align with your understanding of God's discipline and forgiveness?
2. In 2 Sam 12, David receives both complete forgiveness and severe consequences in the same conversation. How do you reconcile these two realities? What does this teach us about the nature of God's grace?
3. Read Hebrews 12:5-11. How does this New Covenant passage help us understand what happened to David? What's the difference between God's punishment and God's discipline?
4. David spent seven days fasting and pleading with God, even though he knew God's will. When have you "wrestled" with God in prayer about something you knew was His will? How did God respond to your honest struggle? How do you respond when God hasn't answered your prayers?
5. Think about something hard in your life right now. How would it change things if you saw it as God teaching you instead of God being mad at you? What might He want you to learn? Brainstorm ways to respond to circumstances and consequences as opportunities to be trained in holiness.
6. David's first act after his son's death was worship (verse 20). When you're hurting, what typically comes first—complaint, withdrawal, questioning, or worship? What would it look like for you to choose worship over withdrawal in your current circumstances?
7. David's servants saw everything - his pain, his prayers, his worship. Who knows about your real struggles? How can you stop hiding when things get hard?
8. David hoped because he knew God's character: "Maybe God will be kind to me" (verse 22). What truths about God do you need to remember when life gets hard? Which part of God's character is hardest for you to believe when bad things happen?
9. Jesus took the worst consequence - God's anger at sin. How should knowing that change how you see every other hard thing in your life? How should the cross change how you respond to discipline and suffering?
10. How you value God's Word is directly correlated to how you value God. What does your time in God's Word say about your view of God?