

## “A Mature Understanding of Discipline”

### Hebrews 12: 3-11

The purpose of this lesson is to help believers understand the discipline of the Lord. Verse 5 uses the word “discipline.” It is translated from a word meaning:

Chastening, nurture, instruction, chastisement. It speaks to the whole training and education of the mind and morals of children and employs commands, admonitions, reproof and punishment. It also includes the training and care of the body; the curbing of passions and correction of mistakes. It speaks to instruction which aims at increasing virtue and the chastening of the evils which God visits men for their good and His glory.

Just as in the writer’s analogy of the Christian life being a race, it’s not a matter of whether or not we are in the race if we are Christians, but it’s a matter of how we will run the race. As Christians, we will experience the discipline of the Lord.

Why is this true according to v.8?

If you are a parent, or if you have been responsible for the care of children, you know all children need discipline.

When you are trying to feed a small child and he/she slaps the food off the spoon and onto the floor, what should you do?

When a child walks up to a flight of stairs and is in danger of falling, what should you do?

When a child touches something hot, like an iron, what should you do?

When a believer is entangling his/her life in sin, what should God do?

Sometimes Christians get discouraged or hurt because the suffering they are experiencing is the result of being Christians. According to verses 3 what are we instructed to do?

Why does God allow Christians to suffer at the hands of sinners?

What does that teach you about God’s purpose for your life?

Most of the time we experience the discipline of the Lord because of our won sin. According to v. 7, why does God discipline you?

Read verse 8. Have you ever thought, “I’m trying to live my life for God and I’m suffering. Those people out there that don’t even know God live their lives eating, drinking and partying. They aren’t suffering. Why should I discipline my self to live for God if I’m going to miss out on all the fun?”

How do you suppose living out that line of thought will work out?

Verse 10 says the discipline of the Lord is for our good and will result in our sharing in His holiness. Why do you suppose He wants us to share in His holiness?

Read v. 11. What results from the training of discipline?

Is the Lord disciplining you right now? How can you get the greatest benefit from it?