

# Consider Jesus Week 9 Do You Remember

## Discussion Guide

### Summary

This sermon from Hebrews 12:3-28 addresses the difficult topic of God's discipline in the lives of believers. The pastor explains that when we face hardships and suffering, we often forget that God sometimes allows pain into our lives not as punishment, but as loving discipline to produce holiness, righteousness, and peace. Just as earthly parents discipline their children out of love to prepare them for life, our heavenly Father disciplines us because He loves us too much to let us drift away from Him. The sermon warns against two enemies that can derail this sanctification process: Esau's error (using pain as justification to sin) and bitterness (becoming angry at God for allowing difficulties). The message concludes by contrasting Mount Sinai (representing fear and distance from God) with Mount Zion (representing our ability to draw near to God with confidence as His beloved children).

### Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts, ready to receive what You want to teach us through Your Word. We acknowledge that sometimes Your ways are difficult to understand, especially when we face pain and hardship. Help us to set aside our preconceptions and be willing to hear Your truth about discipline and love. Open our minds and hearts to what You want each of us to learn in this time together. Give us wisdom to apply Your Word to our lives and the courage to trust You even when life is difficult. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Ice Breaker

What's something you had to learn the hard way as a child, and how did that lesson actually help you later in life?

### Key Verses

- Hebrews 12:3
- Hebrews 12:5-6
- Hebrews 12:11
- Hebrews 12:14-15
- Hebrews 12:22-24

### Questions

1. How does understanding God's discipline as loving rather than punitive change your perspective on difficult circumstances in your life?
2. The sermon mentions that 'no discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful.' How can we maintain hope during painful seasons while still being honest about our struggles?

3. What's the difference between 'Esau's error' (using pain to justify sin) and properly responding to God's discipline? Can you think of examples of each?
4. How does bitterness toward God or others interfere with the work He wants to do in our lives through difficult circumstances?
5. relationship with God) and Mount Zion (confident access to God). Which mountain better describes your current relationship with God and why?
6. How can we help each other 'take off the masks' and be honest about our pain without losing hope in God's goodness?
7. spirits and live' when we're going through hardship?
8. How can remembering that we're receiving 'a kingdom that cannot be shaken' help us endure temporary difficulties with thanksgiving?

### **Life Application**

This week, identify one area of current difficulty or pain in your life. Instead of asking 'Why me?' or becoming bitter, spend time in prayer asking God what He might want to teach you or develop in you through this situation. Write down any insights He gives you and look for ways to 'snuggle closer' to Him rather than pulling away during this challenging time.

### **Key Takeaways**

God sometimes allows pain into our lives as loving discipline to produce holiness, righteousness, and peace

We don't have to pretend to be happy all the time - it's okay to acknowledge when we're struggling while still trusting God

Two enemies can derail God's sanctifying work: Esau's error (using pain to justify sin) and bitterness toward God or others

We have access to Mount Zion, not Mount Sinai - we can approach God with confidence as beloved children, not in fear

The purpose of discipline is not punishment but training us for maturity and helping us experience more of God's holiness

### **Ending Prayer**

Father, thank You for loving us enough to discipline us and not leave us to drift away from You. Help us to remember that You are not an angry God waiting to strike us down, but a loving Father who wants to produce righteousness and peace in our lives. When we face difficulties, help us to snuggle closer to You rather than pull away. Give us the strength to resist both the temptation to use our pain as justification for sin and the poison of bitterness. Thank You that we can approach You with confidence because of Jesus. Help us to worship You with reverence and awe, trusting that Your love for us is so great that You will remove everything that keeps us broken. In Jesus' name, Amen.