

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

God Disciplines His Sons

Hebrews 12:1–13

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day 1: Read Hebrews 12:1,2.

1. In verse 1, what is the “therefore” there for? In other words, what is the connection between what is said in chapter 11 and what is urged in chapter 12?

2. Who are the “cloud of witnesses” that surround us, what is it they witness to, and how will it help us to consider their lives?

3. Who caps off the list of the faith role models of chapter 11? (12:1)

Day 2: Read Hebrews 12:2,3.

4. What is the author’s metaphor for the Christian life? (vs. 1)

5. What should you keep your eye on as you run your race? (vs. 2) What is the danger if you don’t? (vs. 3)

6. What kind of thoughts kept Jesus going in his own race and experience of suffering? (vs. 2; John 13:3,4)

7. Is “the race marked out for (you)” exactly the same as everyone else’s course?

A. How is it the same? (Romans 1:17b; Acts 14:22b)

B. How is it unique? (Galatians 6:4,5; John 21:18–22)

Day 3: Read Hebrews 12:2,3.

8. Study other passages about our “race”:

A. What is Paul’s attitude about his life? (Acts 20:24)

B. What phrases describe the kind of self-discipline needed in our race? (1 Corinthians 9:24–27)

C. In this verse, what is another way of saying “I have finished the race”? (2 Timothy 4:7)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 12:4–10.

9. On the day you were saved by believing in Jesus Christ, what entirely new relationship did you enter into with God? (Choose one). (Heb.12:7; Ephesians 1:5; Romans 8:14–16)

A. potter/ pot

B. lord/ vassal

C. judge/ judged

D. father/ daughter

10. How would you expect this new relationship to affect the way God deals with your sin and weaknesses from now on?

11. Why do you discipline your own children?

12. How is God like our parents in their discipline of us? (vss. 5–8) How is he better? (vss. 9,10)

Day 5: Read Hebrews 12:10–13.

13. What wonderful thing does God promise to those who allow themselves to be changed by his rebuke and discipline? (vss. 10,11; Proverbs 1:23)

14. What kind of people reap benefit from God’s discipline? (vs. 11)

15. Name four ways God uses to keep his beloved children in the path of life. (2 Timothy 3:16)

16. What are the “feeble” and “weak” places in your life right now that can go either way — “strengthened” or “disabled” — depending on some choices you need to make?