



# Providence

## Presbyterian Church

Loving Discipline | Hebrews 12:3-11  
June 7, 2015

### Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

### Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

### Warm up!

What one way you've grown over the last few years?

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Other ways I've grown or changed:

- Each day I look more like the photo on my driver's license.
- It takes me longer to rest than it took to get tired.
- I now think of weight lifting as standing up from a seated position.
- Happy hour is a good nap.
- It takes me twice as long to look half as good.
- What I thought was a clear conscience is really just a poor memory.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Read Hebrews 12:3-11 together

### Those who look away from Christ will never finish well.

*Hebrews 12:1*

*[1] Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (ESV)*

Question: What causes us to look away from Christ?

- We are too busy
- We'd rather look at ourselves and other people
- We forget the main point
- We get distracted
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Call of Fatherhood

Hebrews 12:9–10

*[9] Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? [10] For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. (ESV)*

### **There is great power in being a parent, but there is a problem: We are confused!**

Question: If you are a parent, when did you realize the tension between your influence over your children AND your own confusion of how to be a parent?

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Question: What evidence is there in society that men are confused?

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### **Two Truths about Men:**

- Lonely and confused men create major problems.
- Healthy men bring life to their families, their churches and their communities.

Question: Why do you think confused and lonely men create so many problems?

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There is a dragon that quietly protects a man's heart and it keeps men from being vulnerable. How have you experienced this metaphorical dragon? Do you think this dragon exists at our church?

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Question: How do you think our church can help men grow from confused and lonely too healthy?

- We can live in community.
- We can learn to be honest.
- We can share our struggles.
- We learn how to be a man from other men.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Our earthly Fathers and Mothers are called to point us to our Heavenly Father.**

### **God's Discipline is for our good.**

Hebrews 12:10–11

*[10] For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. [11] For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (ESV)*

Some thoughts on suffering:

- It is for our good and God's glory.
- Some of it is fair and some of it isn't fair.
- Sometimes it hardens our hearts to God and sometimes softens our hearts to God.
- In our suffering God is both good and sovereign.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

For Discussion: Share a time in your life when God used suffering to see Christ more clearly.

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Question: What sort of attitudes can we pray for the next time we walk through discipline from God?

- Submission
- Faith
- Endurance
- Hope
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: How can we help others in our church that are currently walking through hardship or suffering?

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### **Work It Out!**

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:

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