

5 WAYS TO BE WISE

A 10-WEEK STUDY ON PROVERBS 3:1-12

MY SON,
DO NOT FORGET
MY TEACHING,
BUT KEEP MY
COMMANDS
IN YOUR HEART...

Family Discipleship Kit for Fall 2022

This 10 week study focuses on five themes in Proverbs 3:1-12 that serve as a summary for the book of Proverbs in general.

The family discipleship kit includes family-oriented discussion questions, daily Bible reading plan (with both short and long options), and a weekly prayer focus with progress-tracking stickers.

This study will coordinate with the Young Disciples' verse memory project of Proverbs 3:1-12, and Pastor John's new sermon series, "Listening to the Ancients."

5 WAYS TO BE WISE

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Proverbs 3:1-12

1 REMEMBRANCE

WEEK 1: SEPTEMBER 11 - 17

We Forget, but Jesus Remembers

WEEK 2: SEPTEMBER 18 - 24

Favor and a Good Name

2 SUBMISSION

WEEK 3: SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 1

We Rebel, but Jesus Submitted

WEEK 4: OCTOBER 2 - 8

Straight Paths

3 HUMILITY

WEEK 5: OCTOBER 9 - 15

We are Proud,
but Jesus Humbled Himself

WEEK 6: OCTOBER 16 - 22

Healthy Bodies and
Nourished Bones

4 GENEROSITY

WEEK 7: OCTOBER 23 - 29

We are Selfish,
but Jesus Gave Generously

WEEK 8: OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 5

Overflowing Barns and New Wine

5 PERSEVERENCE

WEEK 9: NOVEMBER 6-12

We are Forgiven,
Jesus Endured Punishment

WEEK 10: NOVEMBER 13-19

Our Father Delights in Us

Dear Church Family,

While studying for this Fall's Family Discipleship Kit, I came across this article written by Tim Keller (posted on The Gospel Coalition website...I can send you the link if you are interested).

I found it very challenging to connect Proverbs 3 (something I had often applied moralistically) to the themes of the gospel.

I used this article as the jumping off point for the "5 Ways to be Wise" study, and I thought it might be helpful to have it included for the sake of context, so here it is in its entirety.

May God bless your meditation on His Word!

--Becki Watson

Proverbs: A Mini-Guide to Life

March 16, 2010 | Tim Keller

In my regular, daily Bible reading over the past year I read through Proverbs 3, a passage I've studied and preached through many times. But during this reading, I realized that in verses 3 through 12 we have all the themes of the rest of the book, and therefore a kind of mini-guide to faithful living. There are five things that comprise a wise, godly life. They function both as means to becoming wise and godly as well as signs that you are growing into such a life:

1. Put your heart's deepest trust in God and his grace. Every day remind yourself of his unconditioned, covenantal love for you. Do not instead put your hopes in idols or in your own performance.

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart (Prov 3:3-5a)

2. Submit your whole mind to the Scripture. Don't think you know better than God's word. Bring it to bear on every area of life. Become a person under authority.

Lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Prov 3:5b-6)

3. Be humble and teachable toward others. Be forgiving and understanding when you want to be critical of them; be ready to learn from others when they come to be critical of you.

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. (Prov 3:7-8)

4. Be generous with all your possessions, and passionate about justice. Share your time, talent, and treasure with those who have less.

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. (Prov 3:9-10)

5. Accept and learn from difficulties and suffering. Through the gospel, recognize them as not punishment, but a way of refining you.

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in. (Prov 3:11-12)

As I meditated on these five elements—rooted in his grace, obeying and delighting in his Word, humble before other people, sacrificially generous toward our neighbor, and steadfast in trials—I thought of Jesus. The New Testament tells us that the personified 'divine wisdom' of the Old Testament is actually Jesus (Mt 11:19.) And I realized that a) he showed the ultimate trust and faithfulness to God and to us by going to the cross, b) he was saturated with and shaped by Scripture, c) he was meek and lowly in heart (Mt. 11:28-30), d) he, though rich, became poor for us, e) and he bore his suffering, for us, without complaint. We can only grow in these five areas if you know you are saved by costly grace. That keeps you from idols, from self-sufficiency and pride, from selfishness with your things, and from crumbling under troubles. Jesus is wisdom personified, and believing his gospel brings these character qualities into your life.

For a number of weeks I have been spending time praying for these five things for my family and my church leaders. There's no better way to instill these great things in your own heart, than to pray intensely for them in the lives of those you love.

We Forget, but Jesus Remembers

1 REMEMBER THE GOSPEL

Remembering the gospel means regularly review, meditate on, and open yourself up to the vulnerabilities of: God's holy law (and our inability to keep it), the depths of our sin, the extent of God's grace, the agony of Jesus's sacrifice, and the great relief of forgiveness.

To not forget his teachings we must always have gospel truth in front of us, calibrating our wants and desires, and setting our minds on things above.

This, of course, is impossible without Jesus: we are powerless to *even remember* the gospel, were it not for the gospel first enabling us to do so.

While we were outcasts, God remembered us. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. When we are faithless, He is faithful to his covenant. While we hold grudges, he forgets our transgressions and remembers them no more. While we forget Him, he remembers us.

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

Proverbs 3:1-4

Monday

Read: Proverbs 3:1-4

For Further Study: Psalm 119; Deuteronomy 8, James 1:19-27

Discuss:

- What are some things in your life that you often forget?
- What do you do when you don't want to forget something?
- What are some ways we can forget God's law?

Tuesday

Read: Genesis 3:1-8

For Further Study: Exodus 20, Exodus 32, Deuteronomy 6

Discuss:

- Did Adam and Eve forget God's law? Why or why not?
- How might have Eve answered the snake if she had been remembering God's law?
- Why is it so easy to "forget" God's law?

Wednesday

Read: Luke 2:41-52

For Further Study: Luke 4:1-22; Luke 13:31-35; Luke 22:39-46

Discuss:

- What was Jesus's mission on earth? Do you think he ever forgot that mission?
- Did Jesus know and remember the gospel well? How do you know?
- Why did Jesus win favor with God and man?

Thursday

Read: Colossians 1:9-14, 21-23; Colossians 3:1-4

For Further Study: Colossians 1-3; Ephesians 1:17-23; Ephesians 3:14-21; Philippians 1:9-11

Discuss:

- What is Paul's prayer for the people he is writing to?
- How do we get wisdom and understanding?
- Why is remembering the gospel (or "not moving from the hope held out in the gospel") important?

Friday

Read: Romans 6:23, John 3:15-16; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 10:9-13

For Further Study: Psalm 103

Discuss:

- What is the gospel?
- How can you remember the gospel better?
- In what areas of your life is the Holy Spirit leading you to set your mind more firmly on things above?

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

Can you find the corresponding stickers to place here?

CONFESSION

SUPPLICATION

Favor and a Good Name

1 REMEMBER THE GOSPEL

As important as it is to remember that “we lost it all” and “Jesus did it all” we cannot forget the promise, “we get it all”! The good news, after all, is...well, good!

The book of Proverbs is full of descriptions of the good consequences that *generally* occur when we do what is right. They aren't so much promises as they are common benefits of wisdom.

But through the lens of the gospel, we often get an even deeper and truer understanding of these “rewards” for wisdom. Take Proverbs 3:1-2 as an example. Those who obey their parents may tend to have less problems here on earth. But through the gospel, we have been given a Father in Heaven. Through the gospel, we are able to hide his commands in our heart, growing in trust and obedience through the washing of the Word.

Through the gospel, we get to experience peace and prosperity for an eternity!

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, **for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.**

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. **Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.**

Proverbs 3:1-4

Monday

Read: Proverbs 3:1-4

For Further Study: Isaiah 61, Psalm 37:10-11, Ecclesiastes 7:1, 1 Timothy 3:7, Proverbs 22:1

Discuss:

- What is peace and prosperity?
- What does it mean to “win favor and a good name” in the “sight of man”?
- What does it mean to “win favor and a good name” in the “sight of God”?

Tuesday

Read: Isaiah 6:1-7

For Further Study: Luke 2:14, 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2, James 4:6, Job 38-39

Discuss:

- Does God have a “good name” (good reputation) in the sight of men? Why or why not?
- Can we be holy like God is holy?
- Why is it such a big deal that we could win favor and a “good name” in the sight of God?

Wednesday

Read: Philippians 2:5-11

For Further Study: Revelation 5, Isaiah 9:6-7

Discuss:

- What did Jesus give up to come to earth and die on a cross?
- Did Jesus have “favor and a good name” when he was on Earth?
- Does Jesus have “favor and a good name” now?

Thursday

Read: Isaiah 62:1-5

For Further Study: Genesis 32:28; John 1:42, Colossians 2:6-15, Revelation 2:17

Discuss:

- How does the lens of the gospel help us look forward to a “good name” in the sight of God?
- Why do some people in the Bible (Simon/Peter, Jacob/Israel etc.) get new names?
- How does knowing/remembering that we have a good name in the sight of God impact our thinking and actions?

Friday

Read: Galatians 2:19-20

For Further Study: Romans 6, 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, Ephesians 2:8-10

Discuss:

- Who is responsible for our new reputation and our favor with God?
- What does God see when he looks at us?
- How does knowing that we are righteous before God help us actually do good things?

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

Can you find the corresponding stickers to place here?

ADORATION

THANKSGIVING

We Rebel, but Jesus Submitted

2 SUBMIT TO GOD

Trusting in the Lord with all your heart means giving him the reigns and doubting your own interpretation of reality: to trust God more than your experience, desires, and even what your five senses tell you!

In this way, Eve's first sin in the Garden was not sinking her teeth into the flesh of the fruit, but shifting her trust from God's words to her own analysis of the facts.

In contrast, Jesus denies the bread that Satan offers, not because he isn't hungry or able -- but because "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the Father."

We are constantly in rebellion against God and the truth of his Word, but Jesus was always obedient, even unto death! Our submission requires a sort of death, too. We must be crucified with Christ in order to truly live.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Monday

Read: Proverbs 3:5-6

For Further Study: Psalm 37, Psalm 56

Discuss:

- What does it mean to trust in the Lord with all your heart?
- What does it mean to lean on your own understanding?
- What are some situations that you find it difficult to trust God?

Tuesday

Read: Matthew 14:22-36

For Further Study: Matthew 6:25-34, 1 Peter 1:3-12

Discuss:

- Was Peter trusting Jesus with his whole heart? Why or why not?
- When do you think Peter started leaning on his own understanding?
- What are some situations that you find it difficult to trust God?

Wednesday

Read: Luke 4:1-13

For Further Study: Matthew 16:13-20, Philippians 2:5-11, John 10:1-21

Discuss:

- How did Jesus submit to scripture?
- What did Jesus mean in Luke 4:4?
- What are some other ways Jesus submitted to and obeyed the Word of God?

Thursday

Read: Matthew 26:36-46

For Further Study: Hebrews 4:14-16, 1 John 5:1-12

Discuss:

- How does Jesus submit to scripture?
- Why did Jesus submit to the Father?
- Why was submission so difficult?

Friday

Read: James 4:1-12

For Further Study: Ephesians 5, 1 Peter 5:1-11

Discuss:

- How does submitting to scripture influence the way you interact with others?
- How does submitting to scripture influence the way you think about your body?
- How does submitting to scripture influence the way you make decisions?

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

CONFESSION

SUPPLICATION

Straight Paths

2 SUBMIT TO GOD

Big decisions are difficult because we we don't know everything. We can't know the future, because it hasn't happened yet. We can't know all the variables and forces influencing us in the present, because our minds and perceptions are finite. We can't even perfectly know the past, because can only rely on our faulty memory and other imperfect representations.

That is why it is such a sweet encouragement to remember that God, who exists in the past, present, and future -- knows all and understands all. More than that, he is sovereign over it all, too -- so that all things are working together for his glory and purpose.

What a blessing to have our paths made straight for us; to have lamp unto our feet and a light onto our path. Our good shepherd comforts us with a rod and staff, poking and proding us toward the good future he has prepared for us in advance.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, **and he will make your paths straight.**

Proverbs 3:5-6

Monday

Read: Proverbs 3:5-6

For Further Study: Psalm 5

Discuss:

- What does it mean to have straight paths?
- What are some decisions you are struggling with right now?
- How can you know you are making the right decision?

Tuesday

Read: Romans 11:33-36

For Further Study: Daniel 2, Isaiah 55:8-9

Discuss:

- Why is God able to "make our paths straight"?
- Why is it important to understand that God's wisdom is greater than ours?
- If God is wise, why are the paths he takes us down sometimes difficult or uncomfortable?

Wednesday

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For Further Study: Matthew 13:53-58, Revelation 5:12

Discuss:

- What parts of God's wisdom are considered foolish to the world?
- How can you tell what is wise and what is foolish?
- Will we always be regarded wise by others, when we follow God's wisdom?

Thursday

Read: Romans 12:1-2

For Further Study: James 1, Ephesians 4:17-5:20

Discuss:

- How can we know what God's will is for us is?
- Why do you think conforming to the world might make God's will hard to know?
- Why is "transforming by the renewing of your mind" considered a sacrifice?

Friday

Read: Psalm 119:97-105

For Further Study: Psalm 119

Discuss:

- Why don't we always feel this way about God's law?
- Why do you think the Psalmist felt this way?
- How can you cultivate a greater love of God's law?

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

ADORATION

THANKSGIVING

We are Proud, but Jesus Humbled Himself

3 HUMBLE YOURSELF

Humbling yourself means thinking less about yourself and more about others. It requires an accurate picture of yourself -- not that you are worse than anyone else, but that you are no better. And more importantly, you are far inferior to the perfect and holy God.

This attitude is completely at odds with our sinful nature! From the moment of our birth, we attempt to assert our dominance, establish our own kingdom, and fight for our own wants over the needs of others. In our pride, we are fools. We fight for things that will make us miserable, and reject the things that bring life.

How surprising and gracious that *Jesus* -- who *actually* is the King over all, humbles himself in order to free us from our slavery to pride.

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Proverbs 3:7-8

Monday

Read: Proverbs 3:7-8

For Further Study: Proverbs 9

Discuss:

- What does it look like when someone is wise in their own eyes?
- What does it mean to fear the Lord?
- What does it mean to shun evil?

Tuesday

Read: Daniel 4:28-36

For Further Study: Daniel 4

Discuss:

- What did King Nebuchadnezzar do wrong?
- What was his punishment?
- Why should we never be wise in our own eyes?

Wednesday

Read: John 13:1-17

For Further Study: Matthew 3:13-15, 20:28, Luke 15:1-2, Philippians 2:5-11, Corinthians 2:8-9; Hebrews 4:15

Discuss:

- How did Jesus humble himself?
- Why did Jesus humble himself?
- Did Jesus have to humble himself?

Thursday

Read: Isaiah 53:7-12

For Further Study: Isaiah 50, 53

Discuss:

- Why does Jesus's humility enable us to be humble?
- Meditate on how our pride is so out of place when we compare ourselves to Christ.
- How does "fearing God" and "shunning evil" relate to Christ's humility?

Friday

Read: Matthew 5:3-10

For Further Study: Matthew 5-7

Discuss:

- Which one of the beatitudes is hardest for you, do you think?
- In what areas/situations do you feel the Holy Spirit's promptings to humble yourself?
- Think of ways that Jesus embodies the beatitudes.

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

CONFESSION

SUPPLICATION

Healthy Bodies and Nourished Bones

3 HUMBLE YOURSELF

Humility brings health to your body and nourishment to your bones because only the humble are able to recognize their lives are but a vapor. Health and youth are fleeting, and once gone -- never recoverable.

A humble person recognizes that they have needs for rest and nourishment, while a fool assumes they are invincible.

But through the lens of the gospel, we are given a greater, more exciting understanding of this "reward": those who have humbled themselves in the sight of the Lord have the resurrection to look forward to. Not only health to their mortal bodies, but a brand new body, unmarred by the curse of sin.

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. ***This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.***

Proverbs 3:7-8

Monday

Read: Proverbs 3:7-8

For Further Study: Proverbs 9

Discuss:

- In what ways does wisdom lead you to have a more healthy body?
- What does it mean to have bones that are nourished?
- What would it be like to not have the curse of sin upon our bodies?

Tuesday

Read: Hebrews 1:1-4

For Further Study: Colossians 1:15-20

Discuss:

- What does it mean when it says that the Son "sustains all things by his powerful word"?
- Who gets the credit for supplying our needs?
- Has God ever not supplied a need for you?

Wednesday

Read: Luke 24:36-49

For Further Study: Luke 24, 1 John 3:2, Philippians 3:21

Discuss:

- What were the differences between Jesus' body before and after the resurrection?
- Does Jesus still have a body and bones?
- What will the differences be between our body before and after we are resurrected?

Thursday

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

For Further Study: 1 Corinthians 15

Discuss:

- Why are we able to not fear death?
- How does hope in death change the way we live and think?
- In what ways do you still fear death?

Friday

Read: John 11:1-44

For Further Study: Ezekiel 37

Discuss:

- What brought health to Lazarus's bones?
- Was Lazarus able to heal or raise himself?
- How is our spiritual resurrection similar to Lazarus's physical resurrection?

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

ADORATION

THANKSGIVING

We are Selfish, but Jesus Gave Generously

4 GIVE GENEROUSLY

If “Remembering the Gospel” and “Submitting to God” had to do with our vertical relationship with God, and “Humbling Ourselves” dealt with our horizontal relationships interpersonally, “Giving Generously” deals with our relationship to our possessions.

We ought not forget that everything we have belongs first to God. Even ourselves -- our talents, our time, our identity -- does not belong to us, but to God. So how much more should we give to God the first fruits of our wealth? How much more easily should we part with our possessions?

Jesus himself gave up riches to become poor. On earth he had no home or possessions. He became poor so that we could become rich.

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10

Monday

Read: Proverbs 3:9-10

For Further Study: Deuteronomy 26

Discuss:

- What are some ways you could honor the Lord with your wealth?
- What are some ways you could dishonor the Lord with your wealth?
- What are firstfruits?

Tuesday

Read: Mark 10:17-31

For Further Study: Luke 6:17-26

Discuss:

- What do you think the rich young ruler’s answer to Jesus’s question revealed about him?
- Why is it harder for someone who is wealthy to enter the Kingdom of God?
- Do you think it is wrong to be wealthy? Why or why not?

Wednesday

Read: Luke 9:57-62

For Further Study: Matthew 17:24-27, 2 Corinthians 8:9

Discuss:

- In what ways was Jesus poor?
- In what ways was Jesus wealthy?
- How did Jesus show generosity?

Thursday

Read: Luke 12:13-21

For Further Study: Matthew 6:1-4, 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Discuss:

- Can you honor the Lord with your wealth if you do not give to the poor?
- What are some other ways to honor the Lord with your wealth, besides giving to the poor?
- What should you do if you find it hard to share what you have?

Friday

Read: Matthew 6:19-24

For Further Study: Matthew 13:12, 44-46

Discuss:

- What are some ways you can know what your treasure is?
- What (besides Jesus) is competing for your heart's desire?
- How can you focus your love on Jesus more?

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

CONFESSION

SUPPLICATION

Overflowing Barns and New Wine

4 GIVE GENEROUSLY

Were it not enough that Jesus generously gives us his life for our sake, he heaps on even more blessing. Since Jesus took the punishment for our sin, we are now adopted as sons and daughters of God; co-heirs with Christ to a glorious inheritance!

Like an overflowing barn and vats filled with new wine guaranteed security far into the future, our inheritance is also secure. Our treasures in Heaven can not fade away and leave us disappointed. We get it all!

This is why we can be generous with our wealth -- our Father already owns it all, what should we fear? "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; **then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.**

Proverbs 3:9-10

Monday

Read: Proverbs 3:9-10

For Further Study: Psalm 23, John 2:1-12

Discuss:

- In what ways does wisdom lead you to have a prosperity?
- What is good about new wine?
- Is it ever possible to be so generous that you become poor? Why or why not?

Tuesday

Read: James 1:17-18

For Further Study: Psalm 34:8, Psalm 84:11, Psalm 31:19

Discuss:

- What does it mean when we say "God is good"?
- How do we know God is good?
- What are some ways that God has blessed you?

Wednesday

Read: Revelation 5

For Further Study: Hebrews 12:1-3

Discuss:

- What does Jesus deserve?
- Why does he deserve this glory?
- How does God the Father feel about Jesus?

Thursday

Read: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For Further Study: Luke 22:7-38

Discuss:

- Why do you think Jesus used wine to be a symbol of the new covenant?
- What is the new covenant Jesus has made with us?
- Why are we able to not fear the future?

Friday

Read: John 10:1-18

For Further Study: Luke 15, Matthew 7:7-12

Discuss:

- What is our Father in Heaven like?
- What kind of life does God want us to live?
- Is this how you view God? Why or why not?

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

ADORATION

THANKSGIVING

We are Forgiven, but Jesus Endured Punishment

5 PERSEVERE IN SUFFERING

When faced with suffering, we can be tempted to ask why God is punishing us. We justify ourselves and angrily complain that our circumstances aren't fair.

The irony is rich, however. The truth is we have not been given what we deserve, for what we deserve is hell. Jesus, who deserved only blessing and honor, willingly takes our punishment and dies in our place.

Our debt is cancelled, for Jesus pays it all. So when we are given the opportunity to suffer, we can interpret the hardships as discipline from a loving Father: a Father who tenderly prunes away the parts of us that do not bear fruit.

That why we can consider it pure joy when we face trials of many kinds. Our pain has a purpose!

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Proverbs 3:11-12

Monday

Read: Proverbs 3:11-12

For Further Study: Revelation 3:19, Proverbs 12:1, Proverbs 6:23

Discuss:

- What are some circumstances you would interpret as the Lord's discipline?
- Tell about a time where you felt like the Lord was rebuking you.
- Why is it tempting to despise God's discipline, or resent his rebuke?

Tuesday

Read: Hebrews 4:4-13

For Further Study: Hebrews 4, 1 Peter 5:10

Discuss:

- How are supposed to interpret hardship?
- What is God's purpose in disciplining us?
- How does a father's discipline of a Son differ from discipline of a servant?

Wednesday

Read: Romans 8:8-30

For Further Study: Romans 5:3-5, Revelation 21:4

Discuss:

- What are some ways we can find comfort in this passage?
- What purpose does God have in our suffering?
- What do we have to look forward to?

Thursday

Read: Philippians 3:1-14

For Further Study: Matthew 16:24, 2 Corinthians 1:5, 1 Peter 4:15

Discuss:

- How has Jesus suffered?
- How do we participate in his sufferings?
- How can this passage help us to find comfort in times of suffering?

Friday

Read: 2 Timothy 2:1-13

For Further Study: Hebrews 10:36, Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 12:1, Romans 12:12

Discuss:

- What is promised to those who endure for the sake of Christ?
- Do you think the sacrifices you make here on earth will seem worth it in the end?
- How do you know?

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

CONFESSION

SUPPLICATION

Our Father Delights in Us

5 PERSEVERE IN SUFFERING

Suffering can be easier to bear when we remember that our loving Father is not only aware of our plight, but intimately orchestrating all circumstances to bring us closer to Him.

Like a loving Father, he is invested in making us the best version of ourselves. He wants us to become closer to Him, and he wants us to bear fruit.

We are so loved! Our co-heir Jesus has laid down his life in order to bring us in to his family. We do not need to approach God's throne with fear or hesitation. We can talk with our God with confidence, and ask for things with boldness...because he is our father and he delights in us!

"He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me." Proverbs 16:19

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke because **the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.**

Proverbs 3:11-12

Monday

Read: Proverbs 3:11-12

For Further Study: Proverbs 13:24, Proverbs 29:15-17

Discuss:

- Is it true that a loving father disciplines his children?
- Do the children of a loving father always like the discipline?
- What does a father look like when he doesn't love his children?

Tuesday

Read: Galatians 4:1-7

For Further Study: John 1:12, Galatians 3:15-29, Psalm 68:5

Discuss:

- Why is it important to understand that God is our Father?
- What does it look like when a person does not believe God is like a Father?
- What is the difference between a son and a servant?

Wednesday

Read: Matthew 3:13-17

For Further Study: Matthew 17:1-13, Psalm 2, Revelation 14:1

Discuss:

- How do we know that Jesus is God's son?
- Does God the Father delight in the Son, Jesus? How so?
- How is our relationship with God like Jesus's? How is it different?

Thursday

Read: 1 John 3:1-10

For Further Study: 1 John 3, Romans 8

Discuss:

- How does our relationship with our heavenly Father bring about purification?
- What has Jesus done for us?
- Why do children end up acting like their parents?

Friday

Read: Psalm 16:5-11

For Further Study: Ephesians 1:11-14, Psalm 18:19

Discuss:

- What is our inheritance?
- Why is our inheritance secure?
- What is God's desire for our life?

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS:

ADORATION

THANKSGIVING