

Discipline Matters - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Jas 5:13-16 what are some other things that the discipline of “church” allows (v13, 14, 15, 16)? Why is confession important?

5. From James 5:19-20 why is accountability important (v20) and what does it call for (v19)? What does Gal 6:1-4 tell us to do in this area and how does Jude 22-23 reinforce this?

6. Looking at Matt 6:1-18 what 3 disciplines does Jesus affirm (v2, 5, 16)? What fleshly chain does the discipline of giving break (v2-4)? Compare 1 Tim 6:6-10.

7. In Matt 6:5-15 and 7:7-12 Jesus gives some guidelines for prayer. Identify these and explain their importance.

8. How should we pray using Jesus’ example (Mark 6:46; Luke 5:16, 9:18). How does Eph 6:18, Phil 4:6, Col 4:2 and 1 Thes 5:17-18 add to this?

9. Using Acts 13:2 and 14:23 what did the early church practice and for what purpose (compare 1 Cor 7:5)? What was Jesus’ example (Matt 4:1-2)? Of what must we beware (Col 2:20-23)?

10. Looking at Col 3:16 what should our practice be regarding Scripture (v16) and what does this look like? With what attitude should we approach the Word (Ps 19:7-14; Jer 15:16)?

11. According to 1 Pet 3:13-16 what does the “discipline” of evangelism require—the spiritual preparation (v14-15), the mental preparation (v15) and the social preparation (v15, 16)?

12. From Ps 99 in what discipline should we regularly engage (v5)? Using this and Ps 100 how should we do it? On a personal level how should we worship Him (Heb 13:15-16)?

Scripture to Remember

“All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

Hebrews 12:11 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Warrior Dads (Eph 5:25-31; Deut 6:4-9)

(Using questions from Sunday’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Brainstorm and discuss some of the ideal qualities of a father. How close did your father get to that, and if you’re a father, how well are you doing?
2. Read Eph 5:25-31. How would describe God’s goals for a man in these verses? How does it differ from those of the woman in the home?
3. Talk about why men have a difficult time “staying” with the family (or anyplace else for that matter)? What does it require? What happens to everyone when they do?
4. Look at Deut 6:4-9. What are men told to do with their sons? How would you define the difference between teaching and mentoring? What must men do for both to occur?
5. Who would you pick as your “best man” if you were going into battle? Do your kids and wife see you this way? How can you improve this?
6. Discuss how you think fathers can communicate love for their daughters, in contrast to the way they do with their boys. Why is anger so destructive? Do you want your daughter to pick someone like you to marry? Why or why not?
7. Share about anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Studies in New Testament Christianity

June 20, 2010

Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 8, Issue 42



Disciplines Matter



Jesus' one solitary life changed the course of mankind for eternity.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

The “D” word—to most people “discipline” should be a four letter word. God’s Word, though, says that discipline is actually the reason we endure—God leaves us here to develop His character in us. The Greek word refers to child-training, which is more than punishment; it is about teaching the value of God’s way. When we submit to God’s discipline, and even choose to practice disciplines, our old way of doing things begins to dissolve, making room for God’s Spirit to develop His character in us. The first of these disciplines is the local church, gathering both in large and small groups. When we do this consistently, God’s Word through others exhorts us to do good. We are also encouraged by one another to love and to persevere as we await Jesus’ return. In

the small group gatherings we get to practice the disciplines of confession and accountability. This frees us from denial so that our fellowship is based on truth, enabling us to overcome our real issues. By mutual submission humility is developed, real life answers are applied and many believers are rescued from sliding down sin’s slippery slope. There are also disciplines that are of a more private nature—giving, prayer and fasting. Jesus and the early Christians continued to pursue these disciplines without fanfare even though they were not “under the Law”. Their practice didn’t make them spiritual, but they did develop godliness. For example, giving combats fleshly greed, while those who consistently pray privately and publicly build a mindset of absolute depend-

ence on God. Fasting is a spiritual discipline that involves the cessation of an activity for a period of time to allow one to pray and hear God’s voice. It doesn’t cause spirituality, but does allow space for growth to occur. Evangelism is also a practice that entails setting Christ apart as Lord, preparing answers for one’s faith in Him, and living in a manner consistent with their testimony. Finally, the worship of God is a daily discipline that shapes our heart’s affections towards Him. The results of these practices show that to make progress, disciplines matter.

Study Questions for Discipline Matters

<p>1. Read Heb 12:6-13. “Discipline” means “child-training”. How important is discipline (v7) and what does it indicate (v6, 8)? What are the results of submitting to God’s training (v10, 11)?</p>	
<p>2. Based on 1 Tim 4:6-9 what is spiritual discipline compared to (v8) and what is its result (v8)? What is our part to be in God’s discipline (v6, 9)? How do Jesus’ words in Matt 11:28-30 add to this?</p>	
<p>3. According to Heb 10:23-25 what does the discipline of meeting together do for us (v23, 24, 25)? How does Matt 18:15-20 fit in with this?</p>	

(Continued on Next Page)