



SERIES BIG IDEA:

**We are to love and lead in our homes the way that our Heavenly Father loves and leads us.**

*<sup>1</sup>Follow God's example, therefore, as dealt loved children <sup>2</sup>and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV, 1984)

- **A Jesus-centered life is the best gift we can give the people around us.**
- **I am proud of my children and will unconditionally love them because they are mine.**
- **I will love and lead so that my family wants to be together, forever with Jesus.**
- **Relationships are built on honesty, not perfection.**

**We can settle for punishment without discipline.**

- **Discipline is training in righteousness to the end of reconciliation with God and others.**
- **Reconciliation is restoring a broken relationship.**
- **Discipline takes the right mindset and motivation.**

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV, 1984)

**The motivation of discipline is love.**

*<sup>5</sup>And have you forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: 'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup>because the Lord disciplines those he loves and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.' <sup>7</sup>Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons.*

Hebrews 12:5-7 (NIV, 1984)

*Without salvation there is no sonship; without sonship there is no discipleship. It is His sons God disciplines that they might bring honor to His name. He wants to teach and train them, to soften and sweeten them, to strengthen and steady them, so that they may become more and more of who they were created to be.*

C.S. Lewis

**Discipline and discipleship affect our relationship with God and others.**

*The discipline applied in discipleship focuses on God in the context of relationships first with God and then with others.*

Howard Thurman

**God's discipline trains us to live in relationship with both God and man.**

*No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

Hebrews 12:11 (NIV, 1984)



TEACHING BIG IDEA:

**We discipline our children toward reconciling with the one they have wronged.**

*Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

Hebrews 12:14 (NIV, 1984)

**Confession, with repentance, leads to right standing with God and can lead to peace with others.**

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

James 5:16 (NIV, 1984)

*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.*

Acts 3:19 (NIV, 1984)

**I will discipline my children toward reconciliation so they can follow and walk in the way of love.**



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**TEACHING SUMMARY:**

Discipline isn't a fun word. For many of us, it brings up thoughts of difficult moments and often gets us thinking about the punishment we have received.

But that isn't God's plan. God's plan for discipline is one that, while including punishment, doesn't stop there. It restores us to right standing with both God and others.

Reconciliation with God and others sounds great, but it doesn't happen naturally. It takes the hard work of confession and repentance. So how are you doing in your relationships with God and others? Are you willing to confess and repent when you have sinned against God or wronged your brother or sister?

Our kids will be watching and following our lead. Let's lead them toward reconciling with others and equip them with an example of confession and repentance so they can follow and walk in the way of love.

**TALK IT OVER:**

Have you ever felt the sting of punishment without a reconciling of the relationship? How did that feel?

Where in your life have you benefited most from the discipline(discipleship) of others?

Do you believe that the goal of reconciliation with Jesus should be the goal of discipline? Why or why not?

What is one next step you can take today?

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**

Mon: 2 Samuel 12:1-13

Tue: Psalm 136:1-3

Wed: Psalm 32:1-5

Thu: Luke 23:26-34

Fri: Romans 8:18-28

Sat: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21