

2022

STRUCTURE Group Guide W4

Living intentionally forward



Overview

Discipline, it's a word that has taken on a life of itself. Having it has created fortunes. Not having it has lost them. However, its modern application seems a bit watered down, a bit self-centered. Biblical discipline, properly understood and applied, holds the key to knowing God and following him well. And, its benefits don't just stop with us, they impact everyone around us. Structure, as unnatural as it can feel at times, is written into the very world around us. And, when we let it guide what's in us, true freedom can be found.

WEEK FOUR

Unfortunately, the thing we are often fighting the most is ourself. Our ideas about how things should be can often block us from understanding what God is trying to do in and through us. It's been humanity's battle since the beginning. So, what's the solution? Obedience. Could it be that simple? According to Jesus and his earliest followers, yes. In the last week of this series, we will take a closer look at Jesus' words in one of his most famous teachings. If we hear them, they could be the key to unlocking the future he has planned for us.

Big Idea: The shocking pattern of God is to overlook offense, not obedience.

Scripture: Hebrews 12:7-11, Matthew 5-7 msg, Matthew 6:1-18msg, Exodus 34:6-7 esv, Proverbs 19:11 esv, Matthew 7:21 msg, James 1:21-22 esv

Key Takeaways & Action Items:

- Recap- 5 Principles: get rid of the filth, worship as best you know how, prepare for spiritual attack, pray, and wait.
- It's easy for us all to see Jesus more as an institution and less as a solution.
- Here's another way to think about it. It's much easier to trivialize what we have normalized.
- Jesus was not normal.
- Jesus' words are fresh and for what they are: **Radical. Revolutionary. Upsetting. Comforting. Upside down. Powerful. Attractive. Repulsive to our broken nature.**
- You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. **If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part.**
- **The shocking pattern of God is to overlook offense, not obedience.**

- Sign up for The Discipleship Process at Vertical Church (tuesdays at 6 starting Feb 1)

Group Guide Questions:

1. As we wrap up the series Structure- we would do well to ask the question:
 - a. What of the 5 principles stood out to you, most?
 - b. Which are you having the most trouble with?
 - c. What are you going to change to implement these?
2. Read Hebrews 12:7-11 esv
This week we focused on discipline. What comes to your mind when you hear the word disciple?
3. First disciple and then peace- this is the way of a COMFORTING, not comfortable God. He wants to disciple you so that you can bear the fruit of hard work. What are some disciplines you know you need to focus on, but feel you don't have enough will power?
4. Study Matthew 5-7 - particularly Matthew 6:1-18 the message version.
 - a. What are some things that you are challenged to do from this scripture?
 - b. Do you believe that God truly knows what you need vs what you're asking for?
 - c. You can't get forgiveness without giving it- who do you need to forgive?
 - d. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's plan. God's always going to do His part- are you?
 - e. What is "your part"?
 - f. How can you transform internally without broadcasting it?
5. Read Exodus 34:6-7 esv
God is ***merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, forgiving.***
Read Proverbs 19:11 esv
We're called to do the same.. That is our part- what are you having the most trouble with "being like God"?
6. Read Matthew 6:1-18 again
We don't want to talk about the things we haven't done, but we're quick to get mad at God when we feel he's not doing his part. Does this sound

familiar? Do you often question why God is not doing his work, but can't inwardly expose the things you're not doing?

7. How can we help each other focused on the disciplines and principles God is calling us to?

Resources:

- It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 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? 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. 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. Hebrews 12:7-11 (ESV)
- When you help someone out, don't think about how it looks. Just do it—quietly and unobtrusively. That is the way your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out. "And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for fifteen minutes of fame! Do you think God sits in a box seat? "Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace. "The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. **This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need.**
- "When you practice some appetite-denying discipline to better concentrate on God, don't make a production out of it. It might turn you into a small-time celebrity but it won't make you a saint. If you 'go into training' inwardly, act normal outwardly. Shampoo and comb your hair, brush your teeth, wash your face. **God doesn't require attention-getting devices. He won't overlook what you are doing; he'll reward you well.** Matthew 6:1-18 (MSG)
- "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)
- Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. Proverbs 19:11 (ESV)

- “What is required is serious obedience, doing what my Father wills.” Matthew 7:21 (MSG)
- Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:21-22 (ESV)