

Topic: **Disciplinarian Father**
Text: **Hebrews 12:4-11 (NIV)**
Theme: **“Resist sin to avoid the Father’s discipline”**

Introduction:

- Adam and Eve committed the first sin when they disobeyed God's command not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
- From then on, sin had been part of their lives (and ours); they became separated from the Father's presence, grace, and blessing.
- Unfortunately, our first parents' sinful nature had been passed on to all generations.
- Praise God, He gave mankind the ultimate hope; He sent His Son to save us from sin. Before we became a Christian, our life was plagued by sin. After we became a believer, sinning should no longer be part of our lifestyle; yet, we still yield to it from time to time.
- When we keep on sinning, the Father corrects our ways through discipline. Getting disciplined is never a pleasant experience; therefore, to avoid learning the hard way, let us resist sin and be spared from the Father's "rod."

I. WAYS HOW THE FATHER DISCIPLINES HIS CHILDREN

V5 And you have 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,

V7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

A. Through corrections (chastening, discipline)

V5b "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

1. God is slow to punish because H waits for our repentance.
2. God is slow to punish because He does not want to destroy His creation.

B. Through hardships (sufferings)

V7a Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons.

David's sufferings when he committed adultery against Bathseba:

1. Spiritual—feeling far from God
2. Emotional—uneasiness, guilt feeling
3. Physical—sickness

II. REASONS WHY THE FATHER DISCIPLINES HIS CHILDREN

V4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

V6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.

V7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

V8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

V9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

A. **Because we haven't resisted sin enough.**

V4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

B. **Because He loves us.**

V6a because the Lord disciplines those he loves,

1 John 3:4 "Behold what a manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God."

C. **Because He accepts us as His children.**

V6b ...he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.

1. The human father also punishes his children.

V7c For what son is not disciplined by his father?

V9a Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us

2. We are not His sons, but bastards, if He will not punish us.
V8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

III. **ADVANTAGES WHEN THE FATHER DISCIPLINES HIS CHILDREN**

V10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

V11 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.

A. Aims for our own good.

V10b... but God disciplines us for our good

B. Shares His holiness.

V10c ... that we may share in his holiness.

C. Brings reward of a righteous life.

V11b ... it produces a harvest of righteousness...

D. Produces peace.

V11c ...and peace for those who have been trained by it.