

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> 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? <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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 (*English Standard Version*)

## Reflection

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

- Hebrews 12:3 (*English Standard Version*)

The letter to the Hebrews was written to encourage the Christians in a time of trial. It does so by focusing on the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ. While God spoke in the past “many times and in many ways,” he has now spoken to us “by his Son,” Jesus Christ, who is the “exact imprint” of God’s nature and who “upholds the universe by the word of his power” (1:1-3). Jesus accomplished complete salvation for all who trust in him (1:1-10:18). We dare not “neglect such a great salvation” (2:3; 5:12-6:20; 10:19-39). Rather, in our faith and in our everyday living, we should imitate the example of Christ and of those listed in the honor roll of faith (chs. 11-13). This letter, whose author is unknown, was probably written about A.D. 68.

- Introduction to the Book of Hebrews (*English Standard Version*)

# Sermon Outline

## The lessons of love are hard won...

Hebrews 12:7-11

*Consider Jesus*

Brad Anderson

*It is possible to endure the most difficult challenges in this life and never learn the lessons of love...* (Hebrews 12:11)

### What would you offer to someone at such a risk?

#### An invitation to consider Jesus... (Hebrews 12:3-4)

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#### An encouragement to live a life shaped by faith... (Hebrews 11:1-3)

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#### A perspective that both remembers the past and looks toward the future while facing the present... (Hebrews 10:32-36)

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### Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What discipline did you sometimes resent as a child that you appreciate now: Learning to finish what you start? Practicing the piano? Getting work done on time?
- It is possible to endure the most difficult challenges in this life and never learn the lessons of love. How is the truth of this statement revealed in Hebrews 12:7-11?
- What does hardship demonstrate about a person’s relationship to God? How should a person respond to God when disciplined? How does Christ’s discipline differ from human discipline? What benefits does discipline bring?
- How has God disciplined you in the past? How did his discipline lead to peace for you?
- Describe the most difficult thing you are going through right now? How is God using this in your life?