

## **The God Who Disciplines**

### **Hebrews 12:3-17**

Nathanael talked about how the discipline of God is a good thing. He does it because he loves us, and it's actually part of his duty to us as a father to shape us and mould us. The passage in Hebrews actually describes it as painful rather than pleasant. But the end result is that we get to experience the holiness of God and experience real fruitfulness in our lives.

He went on to talk about the three ways that we might experience this discipline: through scripture, through spirit-shaped conscience and through our relationships with other Christians. But at the centre of all of these methods is a tender heart. We need to be responsive and soft-hearted towards this guidance in order to fully experience the transformation that God has for us.

### **QUESTIONS**

- What was the worst thing you got in trouble for as a kid?
- Why do you think we might be resistant to the idea of discipline, particularly within the context of Christianity?
- In what ways can the discipline of God be loving?
- Of the three forms of discipline that Nathanael mentioned, which is the easiest to receive and which is the hardest?
- How can we create relationships that foster this spirit of strengthening one another?
- End in prayer for soft hearts and transformed lives.