

# La Familia de Dios

## 10 - Discipline, Punishment, and Forgiveness

**Open by asking:** “How is everyone doing?”

**Introduction:** “We’re taking a look at what life is like in la Familia de Dios. Families are all about relationships, so each week we’re taking a look at different passages from the Bible that talk about how we relate to God and to each other. Our own families shape how we relate to God--good, bad, or ugly--and it’s easy to assume that a relationship with God is just like our relationships with others in our lives. God calls us family, so the point of our discussion is to find out what God himself says about what exactly that means...how it can be similar to and different from what we experience in our families.”

“Last week we talked about obeying God. This week we’re talking about what happens when we disobey: In most families, if you disobey a rule you experience discipline...but you’re not just kicked out because you mess up. How did you experience discipline growing up? Did you ever wonder whether you weren’t part of the family anymore?”

**Transition to the Scriptures:** “The Bible says that Father God disciplines his children.”

**Read Hebrews 12:4-11.** After you read it, discuss these questions together:

**Questions for discussion:**

- Can anyone sum up what this passage is saying?
- What is discipline? What’s the difference between discipline and punishment?
- What is God’s desire when he disciplines us?
- What does God’s discipline look like? How do his children experience it?
- What is the result of God’s discipline?

“Sometimes parents get angry and can even overreact when children disobey. But God chooses to discipline us to shape our character. He disciplines us for our good.”

**Read 1 John 1:5-2:2.** After you read it, share these notes with the group: “St. John was reassuring Christians that they were members of God’s family even if they mess up.”

**Questions for discussion:**

- What is worse--disobeying God or lying about disobeying God? How does this passage relate to that?
- What does this say we should do if we sin? **[You can also ask:** What does “confess” mean? Why do you think he mentions “fellowship with one another” in verse 7?]
- What do these verses have to do with how we relate to God as members of his family?

**Apply it to Life:**

- Everyone struggles with obeying God. Are there any areas in your life where it’s difficult to obey God right now?
- How do these passages influence how you feel about obeying God? What about those times when you disobey?
- What do you think God wants us to do as a result of what we discussed here? **[Leaders:** Remember, the Gospel isn’t about just trying harder to please God, but trusting that God has decided to love us first, and ask him to change us so that we can please him more. It’s subtle, but is the difference between life and death!]

**Pray Together:** “Let’s wrap up our time by praying for each other and asking God to help us experience these truths more this week.”

**NOTE FOR LEADERS:** Think about the discussion you had with your group and ask God what to do next to help the members of your familia grow closer to Jesus. Maybe there are people you need to get together with one-on-one to see where they are spiritually. Are there any people who you think aren’t really understanding that God offers to forgive their sins because Jesus died for them? Are there any people who still think that they can make God love them more because of what they do for him? Are people making friends with each other and hanging out outside of the group meeting? How can you help make this happen?