



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF AUGUST 18, 2024 | CHURCH DISCIPLINE

WARM-UP QUESTION

What's something you got in trouble for as a child that you can now look back on and laugh about?

DISCUSS

Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's message. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13

- Is there anything from this passage that is surprising to you?
- How is this passage an example of God's mercy toward unbelievers? What do you learn about His character through Paul's words?
- What is the distinction Paul makes between believers and unbelievers? Why is this distinction important?
- How did Jesus approach the sin of unbelievers? Find examples in Scripture to back up your answers. (Not sure where to start? Read the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10.) What can you take from Jesus and apply to your own life?
- Is it ever ok to approach unbelievers about their sin?

Read Matthew 18:15-17

- What are the three steps of church discipline that Paul lays out in this passage?
- Jesus gives us a framework for what church discipline should look like. What are the benefits of having a framework for how to walk through challenging dynamics as believers?
- It could be very easy to weaponize these verses. Sometimes, we need to talk about what we shouldn't do, so we can be aware of it. What are these verses not saying? What could it look like to live out these verses incorrectly?
- What's the danger in handling church discipline in a wrong manner? What's at stake?
- Do you feel equipped to have hard conversations with other Christians if you need to? What steps can you take to grow in this area?
- What would change about your life if you had to leave the church? Would you notice the void in your life? How can you use this question as a tool to evaluate your relationship with Jesus?
- How does living out Matthew 18 make Christians look different from the rest of the world? How would your life look different if you approached sin in the lives of others this way?



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Read [1 Corinthians 5:1-8](#)

- How does Paul describe spiritual pride? What did it look like for the Corinthian church? What does it look like today?
- The Corinthian church was ignoring the sin within their church. What is that dangerous
 - Read [Hebrews 12:10-13](#). What does this verse teach you about God's heart behind discipline?
- In verse 5, to be handed over to Satan is to remove the covering of God's protection and to have the person experience the full magnitude of their sin. When is a time that this has happened in your life and how did you walk through it? Where do you see hope in verse 5?
- Read verse 6 again. What is this visual teaching us? How does it impact the way you view sin in the church?
- How does the Scripture from Matthew 18 influence how you apply 1 Corinthians 5:7?

RESPOND

- Ask God to reveal any sin in your life by praying [Psalm 139:23-24](#). What do you need to confess? Who can you invite into your struggles to walk alongside you?
- Based on what you just discussed, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? When will you do it?
- Ask God to reveal to you someone who He may be calling you to disciple.
- Pray together as a group for the specific goals or areas of struggle that came up in your discussion. Thank God for revealing more of who He is, and ask Him to help you apply what He's prompting you to do this week.