

**ECC Growth Groups – Term 4, 2014**  
**Behold our God**  
**Study 6: God is Merciful in Discipline (Hebrews 12)**

Think about a time in your life when something didn't go according to plan, or when you experienced some kind of difficulty. What can God seem to be like during those times?

Spend some time praying together before you look at God's Word.

Read Hebrews 12:1-13.

In verses 5 and 6 the author quotes from Proverbs 3. What are two possible responses to discipline that we are to avoid?

How might the truths in verse 6 help us to respond rightly?

Why do we find it difficult to have this perspective?

Split your group into a few smaller groups consisting of between two and four members in each. Read out the following instructions and provide time for each group to complete the Activity.

In verses 7-10 the author picks up on the family image from Proverbs 3 and provides more detail. Compare and contrast what is said in these verses by filling out the table below.

<b>Verse(s)</b>	<b>Human fathers</b>	<b>God as Father</b>

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Bring the groups back together.

From these verses (vv 7-10), how would you summarise what God is like?

From these verses (vv 7-10), how would you summarise how we are to respond to God?

In what ways is verse 11 both realistic and hopeful?

In our last two studies we have concentrated on the truths that 'God is holy' and 'God is love'. How do these two truths come together in what we have been considering in this study?

Share of an occasion in life where you feel that you experienced the Lord's discipline.

How were you tempted to either treat it lightly or to lose heart?

As you look back, in what ways did you experience some of the truths that we've seen in this study?

See Appendix 2 – 'Theology to Doxology' and then close the study with a time of prayer.

**Appendix 1 – Activity**

<b>Verse(s)</b>	<b>Human fathers</b>	<b>God as Father</b>

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## Appendix 2 – Theology to Doxology

For our *'Theology to Doxology'* in this study the song, *'God moves in a mysterious way'*, has been selected. If you would like to listen to a more traditional version online, you can use the URL below:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6z0e\\_xSC8to](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6z0e_xSC8to)

For a more modern version, you can use this URL:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtnapVDuPfg>

Please note that if you use this more modern version, verse 2 is omitted and between verses 4 and 5 some Scriptures (from Genesis 50 and Romans 8) are briefly shown. Interestingly, the clip finishes with a reference to Hebrews 12:10.

If you would like to sing together or simply read out the lyrics, they are included below:

### Verse 1

God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm

### Verse 2

Deep in unfathomable mines  
Of never-failing skill  
He treasures up His bright designs  
And works His sovereign will

### Verse 3

Ye fearful saints fresh courage take  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head

### Verse 4

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense  
But trust Him for His grace  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face

### Verse 5

His purposes will ripen fast  
Unfolding every hour  
The bud may have a bitter taste  
But sweet will be the flower

### Verse 6

Blind unbelief is sure to err  
And scan His work in vain  
God is His own interpreter  
And He will make it plain

CCLI Song # 155909  
Thomas Tallis | William Cowper  
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