



MAKING SENSE OF YOUR LIFE

Key Insights from the Full Bible Story

Why is life so hard?

Does God really know what He is doing?

Does God see that I am suffering?

What does God do when I mess up?



God desires relationship and partnership

To be our God and for us to be His people

To be God's light to the Nations

To be His body

To go into all the world and make disciples

To be His beloved children and for Him to be our father



Is God a good father ?



What does a good parent do?



“Discipline”

Proverbs 19:18 Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death.

Hebrew 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.



Old Testament

Priests

Judges

Kings

Prophets



The Divided Kingdom



Jeremiah 2:26-27 ..They, their kings, officials, priests, and prophets—all are alike in this. To an image carved from a piece of wood they say, 'You are my father.' To an idol chiseled from a block of stone they say, 'You are my mother.' They turn their backs on me...



Jeremiah 25 4-10 “Again and again the Lord has sent you his servants, the prophets, but you have not listened or even paid attention. 5 Each time the message was this: ‘Turn from the evil road you are traveling and from the evil things you are doing. Only then will I let you live in this land that the Lord gave to you and your ancestors forever. 6 Do not provoke my anger by worshiping idols you made with your own hands. Then I will not harm you.’ 7 “But you would not listen to me,” says the Lord....



Jeremiah 29:4-8 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷ Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”



Jeremiah 29:10-14

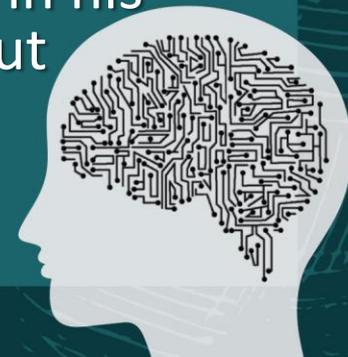
¹⁰ This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”



Hebrews 12:5-11 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,
⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.



Punishment

Discipline

Consequences



God Never Punishes Christians

God Always Disciplines Christians

**God Sometimes Rescues Us from
Consequences and Sometimes Allows us to
Experience the Consequences**

God Always Uses Pain for Good



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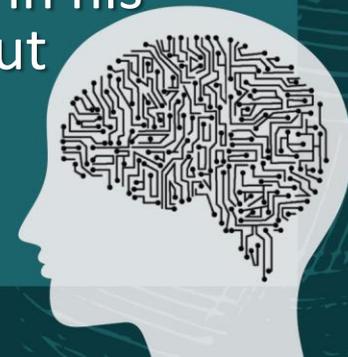
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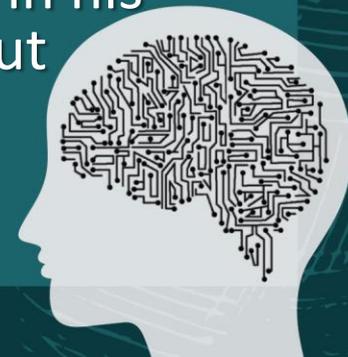
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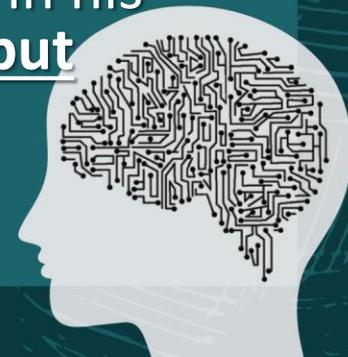
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The purpose and reward of God's discipline

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Jeremiah 25:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.



Challenge

When you feel God's discipline or correction, see it as affirmation that your heavenly father loves you. Let it train and redirect you.

When your circumstances are difficult turn to God, listen and respond.

