

Central Idea - What do you think is the central theme of chapter 10?

Developing Trust

1. a. How does God feel about punishing the wicked (Ezekiel 18:23, 32; 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9)?

b. Read Lamentations 3:32-33. How does God feel about the afflictions He allows us to suffer when we sin?

KJV Lamentations 3:32 But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. 33 For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

2. Read Lamentations 3:17-24

a. What feelings did Jeremiah express in verses 17-20?

b. How did he deal with those feelings (verses 21-24)?

c. How do you deal with your feelings of discouragement and defeat?

d. What could you learn from Jeremiah about handling these feelings?

3. a. What can we learn from Hebrews 12:5-11 about why God disciplines us?

b. When have you experienced God's discipline? Describe one instance.

c. What lessons did you learn?

d. Did you sense God's love in the process? Explain.

4. God gives us the grace we need each day. We don't have the grace today for the "what ifs" of tomorrow.

a. Describe a time when it was especially important for you to focus on God's daily grace without looking ahead.

b. What happened when you tried to look down the road to see how you would cope tomorrow?

5. Summarize what God promises in the following verses.

KJV Psalm 32:10 Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

KJV Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

KJV Isaiah 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. 3 For I *am* the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt *for* thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

6. Read Psalm 13

a. Have you ever felt as David did when he wrote Psalm 13:1-2? If so, describe those feeling in your own words.

- b. How did David end this psalm (verses 5-6)?

- c. How do you think it is possible to get from the feelings of verses 1-2 to the decision in verses 5-6?

- 7. a. To what extent do you currently experience God's love?

- b. What do you think is the major barrier keeping you from feeling God's love for you?

- c. How can you start to remove that barrier?

Trust in Action

- 1. Choose another verse about God's love from this chapter and memorize it. Use it when Satan tries to convince you that God's doesn't really love you.

- 2. Write a letter to someone who needs to know about God's love for him or her.

- 3. Write a letter to Jesus thanking Him for His love for you.