Wisdom of the Bible ~ Discipline ~ Discussion Questions

1. The word "discipline" has several different meanings. We will look mainly at it as training that corrects, molds, or perfects one's mental facilities and moral character. Within this definition, there is discipline from God, discipline from other people, and self-discipline. Which is easiest and which is hardest to accept?

2. For discipline to be effective in correcting or molding character and behavior, what is also necessary: A) severity, B) judgment, C) fairness, D) suffering, E) love, F) repentance, G) Other _____. (Judges 8:16, Jeremiah 30:11)

3. Consider God's approach to training and molding us and getting us to listen to him. What does he use in this process? Where does discipline fit in? (Amos 3:1-2, Jeremiah 31:18-20, Psalm 89:30-33, 1 Corinthians 11:32)

4. How does God want and expect us to react to his discipline? List four or five specific things God wants us to do. (Proverbs 3:11-12, 13:1, 15:5, Job 5:17-18, Hebrews 12:5-11, Revelation 3:19)

5. God expects us to discipline others appropriately, especially parents and their children. (Proverbs 13:24, 19:18, 29:15, Ephesians 6:4)

6. How does God's recommended discipline for children jibe with the views of the world?

7. Self-discipline is often more difficult than being disciplined by God or others. Can you think of some examples of self-discipline that you practice every day in your daily routine? Are there things that you would like to accomplish that require self-discipline? Can an addiction be brought under control with self-discipline?

8. The Bible has several things to say about self-discipline. First, it says that God wants us to focus on his plans and not on our plans. (1 Timothy 4:7-8)

9. Second, the Bible says we should be receptive to God's discipline, ways, and commands and do what they say. (Job 36:10, John 15:10-11)

10. Third, we need self-discipline to persevere in the pursuit of our faith. We must keep going, not grow weary, and press on regardless! (Hebrews 12:1-2a)