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Therefore, respond to God's correction as if it were love. Once we realize our God corrects as a father corrects, we can see that God's correction does not equal God's rejection. Therefore, we can trust that we can be restored.

### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

**READ:** Isaiah 4:2-6

1. Vs 2-4 Israel had faced harsh but necessary correction for their sinful rebellion. But on the other side of that correction, they had turned away from their former life of sin. Has there ever been a time in your life when God corrected you and you learned to trust and obey Him because of it?
2. Vs 5 - The smoke referenced in verse five refers to God's presence in near identical terms as it was described in the Exodus account. Isaiah was communicating that God corrects us so we will leave our life of sin and return to our relationship with God. Israel needed to know that they could once again be a people who enjoyed the blessing of God's visible presence, as their ancestors had. Why is it so important that we fully trust that God does not cast us out of his presence when he corrects us

**READ:** Isaiah 12:1-6

3. Isaiah wanted it to be abundantly clear that the Lord's correction should lead to our rejoicing and worship. But that is not the common way that we approach God's correction. Why is that?

**Read:** Hebrews 12:5-11

4. Vs 5 - How do we go about not making light of the Lord's discipline and not losing heart when he rebukes us?
5. Vs 6-10 - God's correction is compared to the correction of a loving father who corrects out of love. The problem is, we can easily respond to God's loving correction as if it were from a cruel and overbearing boss, which he is not. How can we remember that God's correction does, in fact, come from a God who loves us and corrects like a loving Father?

6. Vs 11 - God's discipline is not pleasant at the time. It hurts. Yet, it produces a "harvest of righteousness and peace." This is especially true for those who are trained by it. The question is, how can we identify when something unpleasant or painful is God's correction or something else?

### **PRAYER TIME**

### **DISMISS**