

## Scripture readings during worship

### Psalm 68:4-6, 32-35

**4** Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,  
extol him who rides on the clouds;  
rejoice before him—his name is the Lord.

**5** A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,  
is God in his holy dwelling.

**6** God sets the lonely in families,  
he leads out the prisoners with singing;  
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

**32** Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth,  
sing praise to the Lord,

**33** to him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens,  
who thunders with mighty voice.

**34** Proclaim the power of God,  
whose majesty is over Israel,  
whose power is in the heavens.

**35** You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary;  
the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people.  
Praise be to God!

## Sermon Scripture

### Hebrews 12:1-17

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,**2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

## God Disciplines His Children

**4** In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.**5** 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. **12** Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. **13** "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

### **Warning and Encouragement**

**14** Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. **15** See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. **16** See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. **17** Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

**Themes:** Themes: How do we think about God's discipline? Are we open to it? Do we take a posture of humility? Consider Jesus and do not lose heart, no matter the circumstance. When we think about application, we look at v.14 and realize we are called to peace and holiness. The Lord's discipline will lead us there.