

The New Testament occasionally uses the Earthly family to illustrate God's familial relationship with us. (Romans 8:15-17) The writer to the Hebrews compares how Earthly fathers discipline their children, to the ways that God disciplines us. (Hebrews 12:1-13) His purpose is for us to be "partakers of His holiness".

The story of Jonah is a good example of God's discipline. The discipline started with a storm at sea that resulted in Jonah being thrown into the deep, where he was swallowed by a great fish. During his three days in the fish, Jonah called out to God and repented of his sin. After Jonah was deposited onto dry land, he obeyed God's original commission to go to Nineveh and warn them of God's impending judgement. While Jonah struggled with yielding to God's purpose, the hardship he endured at least led him to repent of his initial disobedience.

If you find yourself in a season of hardship, seek the Lord and ask Him if there is something He wants you to do or learn.

Hebrews 12:10 "For our fathers indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness."