

**A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study**  
**Date: October 15, 2017**  
**Hebrews 12:1-13**

1. Who are the “cloud of witnesses” that the writer mentions in verse 1? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. What do verses 1-3 tell us to do in light of the great cloud of witnesses?
  - a. Take it easy.
  - b. Throw off everything that hinders.
  - c. Throw off the sin that so easily entangles.
  - d. Run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
  - e. Fix our eyes upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.
3. How is he using these statements and others to encourage us to persevere?
  - a. I don't know, what do I care about these guys in the Bible.
  - b. He has just told the stories of those who lived by faith and it is encouraging to know that others have been faithful and are watching and cheering us on (witnessing our victory).
  - c. It is encouraging for us to know that we can make it through because others already have (they are witnesses to the power of God and possibility he has created).
  - d. When we consider those who had such great faith (and acted on it), we remember that the standard of faith has been set higher than many of us are living and it helps us and challenges us to remember that we are being called to greater faith.
  - e. He is reminding us that Jesus himself endured for our sake...challenging us to not give up when it gets hard.
4. What does verse 4 seem to be telling us?
  - a. He is continuing from verse 3 the thought that if Christ endured, we also can endure and should not stop short of the goal of our faith.
  - b. We may think that we are going through hard times, but we have not yet been through what Jesus went through...
  - c. We do not have an excuse to be unfaithful like many of us think we do.
  - d. The call to faithfulness and living by faith no matter the circumstances, not until it gets hard.
5. What does verse it mean when it says that “the Lord disciplines those he loves and chastens (or punishes) everyone he accepts as a son?”
  - a. He allows circumstances that help us grow.
  - b. Sometimes the trials that we think are from the ‘evil one’ are really God’s way of teaching us and strengthening us.
  - c. If we experience punishment for wrong action, it is actually an act of love and if we stop experiencing guilt and punishment for sin, we should be very concerned.
  - d. God’s punishment is for the purpose of leading us away from wrong actions and sin.
6. How, according to verse 7, are we to endure hardship? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What do verses 10-11 say the purpose is of God’s discipline? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How are you dealing with hardship? \_\_\_\_\_