

**DAY 1 PSALM 130:1-8****1**

How's your criminal history? Police file every arrest, incident, or traffic violation in your criminal history. Clearing a record can be almost impossible. I hope my criminal history is clear, but I have a sin record that would probably stretch around the globe! If God kept a record of my sin, I would never be able to stand before the Judge someday. The evidence would easily declare me guilty. Instead, God is the Judge in the courtroom of my accusation, and, incredibly, He has taken the punishment for my offenses, forgiven me, and declared my record clean. He provided the only payment that could be accepted for my wrongs—the blood of His Son. My sin record has been erased, cleared, expunged. How's your sin record? The court for your forgiveness is still open because your redemption cost Him dearly. Accept this serious love and genuine hope.

DAY 2 HEBREWS 12:4-13**2**

What images come to mind with the word “discipline”? As a child or teen, discipline looked like a “time-out” chair, a calendar marked with “grounded for a month” or “no internet privileges.” We discipline our children because we love them and don't want them to engage in behaviors that will hurt them or their character. A child would probably tell you that discipline stinks! But good discipline has a purpose. As God's children, and because His love is infinitely more perfect than a human parent's love, it should not be a surprise that He disciplines us. God allows those difficult things as agents of change and growth—to encourage us to seek lifestyles pleasing to Him, to guide us to good and holy lives. Accept God's discipline as from a heart of love, intended to help us look more like our perfect Parent.

DAY 3 PSALM 40:1-17**3**

“Troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.” Can you relate to David's cry? I can. I've been blinded by the consequences of my own wrong choices more times than I can count, and sometimes troubles just poured on down even when I tried to do right. In that pit, you only have two choices: keep sinking or get out. Getting out requires an act of God. Choose to cry to Him about your whole ugly mess. He doesn't ignore a cry for help. It's not in His character of love and faithfulness. His great delight is to pick us up, dust us off, and put a new song in our hearts, a song of trust and praise. I want to travel the remainder of life's journey with that new song resounding from the rafters of my life! Fellow pit dweller, ask God to help you out of your pit.

DAY TITUS 2:11-12

4

A good teacher has many occasions to grant loving grace. Think of the great teachers you've had. They probably gave you grace without swerving from the need for firm direction. My mother was one of my strongest teachers. Her standards were clear, but when I tripped up, which was often the case, she continued to express her love for me within the bounds of her disciplinary actions. I knew she loved me and had expectations of me, and I wanted to please her. Our Perfect Parent's grace surpasses anything my mom could have mustered up, for He forgives what will keep me from eternity in Heaven. His exceeding grace is a bold teacher. It reminds me that my life should follow His pattern: moral, self-controlled, not indulgent, denying worldly desires to pursue a God-honoring life. Your graceful Savior is your best teacher. Allow His lessons to change your life.

DAY LUKE 15:1-7

5

In his youth, Franklin Graham ran hard and fast away from God and his upbringing in the home of the great evangelist, Billy Graham. Franklin writes in his autobiography that he believed in God, but he didn't want Jesus running his life. He wanted to do his own thing. His defiance of authority got him expelled from school. He wrote, "The more I tried to fill my life with things I thought would make me happy, the more empty I felt inside." Eventually, Franklin got tired of running from God. Like the Prodigal Son, he came back to God Who waited for his return with open arms and forgiveness. Today, Franklin runs with God, not away from Him. He leads Samaritan's Purse, one of the world's largest organizations for reaching the poor, sick, and suffering in 100 countries around the world. Run to God with your load of rebellion. He's waiting to make a miracle of your life, too.

Sign up to receive our AppNotes email, Monday-Friday.

parkerhill.org/bible