

**August 19 | Sunday**

Teen Challenge Choir - Rescued

Read [Colossians 1:13-14](#)



**20 | Mon – Second chances** | Read [Luke 15:11-24](#) / [Jeremiah 29:11](#)

If anyone needed a second chance, it was the son who threw away his important relationships to pursue a hedonistic lifestyle, regardless of how it affected those who loved him most. Have you ever been in his shoes? Do you know someone who is right now? The son did not know his father would give him a second chance until he decided to ask for one. Kind of like your heavenly Father, right? If you need a second chance, that is where you begin.

**21 | Tue – This is even too hard for God to fix** | Read [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

Life can deteriorated so dramatically it seems you will never recover. After years of taking advantage of God's blessings while dishonoring him with their lives, God disciplined his people by scattering them among the nations. They lost all hope of restoration. Then God in his mercy gave the prophet Ezekiel a striking vision of how deep God's limitless power and love would go to restore life. Imagine what hope this gave the people as they repentantly turned back to God. Do you have any dry bones rattling around in your secret closet?

**22 | Wed – Answer this question first** | Read [John 5:1-8](#)

Jesus healed everyone who came to him but this man could not get to Jesus. When Jesus found him, he had been in this condition for 38 years. Look at the question Jesus asked, one we all need to answer. "Do you *want* to get well?" could be translated "do you *want* to be free from your depression or your bad relationships or your addictions?" In all honesty, there are those who do not because it is easier to be a victim. Whatever it is that you need from God, you have to start by answering this question. How badly do you want to change?

**23 | Thu – Getting past your past - 1** | Read [John 8:32](#)

Start with three basic truths... 1- admit who you are, 2- discover who God is, 3- understand how God sees you, which is probably very different than how you see yourself. Once you truly grasp these three, you will experience a freedom no one can take away from you. Which do you struggle with most? Jesus declared that the truth would set you free, would give you a second chance to live life differently. And don't forget your counselor, the Holy Spirit!

**24 | Fri – Getting past your past - 2** | Read [2 Corinthians 10:5](#)

It can be hard to change. And the hardest work is in your head. Did you know it is possible *and necessary* to critique your own thoughts? When you allow thoughts to run rampant and unchallenged in your mind, you will be defeated before you start. Develop the mental habit of monitoring your thoughts and then 'capture' the half-truths or lies, making them line up with God's truth. Have your thoughts been running you ragged lately?

**25 | Sat – Getting past your past - 3** | Read [John 10:10](#) / [Rev. 12:10-11](#) / [2 Cor. 5:17](#)

Change starts in your mind but that is not enough. You have an enemy who wants to destroy you in every way possible, but you do not have to put up with it! John records that the devil can be defeated by the words of your testimony. What is your testimony? It is what you believe in your heart and announce with your mouth. You *are* a new creation in Christ and the old *has* passed away! Speaking and living out of truth will overcome your past.