

C O U R T N E Y   S I L B E R M A N



ONLY GOD  
*makes things grow*

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A P E R S O N A L J O U R N E Y T O  
G R O W C L O S E R T O G O D

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“Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”

*1 Corinthians 3:7*

  
**ENCOURAGING**  

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**WOMEN *for* CHRIST**

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WEEK FOUR

# Guidance & Correction

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

*Hebrews 12:11*

SONG

“Praise You In This Storm” by Casting Crowns

# Day One: Don't Run Away



## TODAY'S VERSE

The Lord's lamp sheds light  
on a person's life, searching the  
innermost parts.

*Proverbs 20:27*

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Before we start this week, I want you to know how much I love and appreciate you. You have preserved through some very difficult lessons, and I thank you so much for sticking with me through the first half of this study. We will now start the second half, and it may be challenging at times. This "season of knowledge" was by far the most difficult for me. God allowed some extremely painful and ego-bursting lessons in order for me to learn what He wanted to teach me. He is my Father, and He disciplined me because I was in desperate need of some strict discipline. But He did it because He loves me. And He loves you too. He loves you so much, in fact, that He allows pain in your life at times so to show you what a victory it is to emerge on the other side of that pain with new levels of wisdom and understanding that you could never have learned without the pain. So don't run away. Please don't skip over this week. Remember that Jesus is with you every single step of the way. He is holding your hand right now, adoring you with all the love of Heaven, and is just waiting to show you through. Let's pray together.

Jesus, please help me. I'm so tempted to run away from the pain in my life. I'm so tempted to keep shutting out the pain and pushing it down deep, then replace it with other things of this world. But there is nowhere I can hide. You know everything about me, and I cannot hide anything from you. But let me not be afraid of

that, because you love me so much that you will do all it takes to bring me closer to you and to show you how loved I am. Help me through this difficult week of study. Show me the truths that I need to finally face, and allow those truths to set me free. You know that I am scared, but through you I can have strength. Guide me as only you can, My Savior. Amen.

Allow yourself to be strengthened in the rock-solid truths of Scripture. Read Hebrews 4:15-16. Write what this passage means personally to you.

Here's some simple yet reassuring theology: Jesus was fully man and was fully tempted in every single way, just like we are today. He knows *exactly* what it is like to live in this fallen world and know all the pain this fallen world brings. He was even tempted to run away from all the pain that he knew his earthly life would bring him. Let's examine this passage of Scripture again.

Reread Matthew 4:1-11. What were the three ways Jesus faced temptation from Satan?

One way he faced temptation from Satan was an offer to get out the easy way. In Matthew 4:8-9, the Bible says that "*the Devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.'*" Satan tempted Jesus by offering all the kingdoms of the world without having

to go through the pain of offering himself as a living sacrifice and dying a horrific death on a cross. So Jesus knew what the temptation of the easy way out felt like. He could have run away at that moment. But he knew if he had, then you and I could never be saved from our sins and have eternal life.

You know the simple truth about trying to run away? You simply can't. Running away is a delusion. Sure, you think you can for a while, but God will find you and His plans will ultimately prevail. And the more you try to run, the more pain He may need to allow in order to get your attention. Why would we ever choose more pain than we need? No sane woman would. But the truth is, that is what we are potentially choosing when we run away from God's lessons for our lives.

The prophet Jonah experienced this lesson in a profound way. Read Jonah 1-4. What happened to Jonah when he tried to run away?

Jonah was clearly not excited about giving the city of Nineveh the news from God. He thought he could escape by running away, but God would not allow it. Jonah was sent as God's messenger to proclaim the news to the people of Nineveh. Could God have used someone else if Jonah wasn't willing to cooperate? Of course, but the point of God's lesson was not just for the sake of the people of Nineveh. It was also for Jonah to learn obedience to the Lord. God knew that Jonah's disobedience would only lead to pain and hurt for His beloved prophet down the road. And Jonah still found himself wrestling with God, even to the end of the book. I think as long as we are here on earth, we will find ourselves wrestling with God at one time or another. And I believe that our Perfect Father tenderly loves us through every episode.

Probably the single best decision I ever made, after asking Jesus into my life as Lord and Savior, was the decision to not consciously run from God's lessons for my life any longer. I prayed, telling God that I am deciding to be open to the truths that He wants to share

with me. And I pray this every morning during my quiet time. I want to know where I am stepping out of His will so that He can bring me back. Sometimes it hurts, but I always feel His loving hands surrounding me when I am hurting. And there is so much to be said by placing ourselves in a position of humility before God on a daily basis. He blesses that action greatly with the peace of his constant presence.

For some of you, this may be really difficult. I know what it's like to live in a place where guilt and fear consume your life, and to feel like you will never be forgiven for what you did. But it's a lie straight from Satan. Jesus promised you and me that if we accept him into our lives as our Lord and Savior, we will always be forgiven, no matter what. *No matter what.*

Read Psalms 103:1-5. List all the benefits described in these verses below. Circle the first one listed in verse 3.

Look at some of the people in the Bible and think about the sins they committed. Zacchaeus overtaxed many people and was very wealthy because of it, but because he repented before Jesus, he was forgiven and saved (Luke 19:1-10). David committed adultery with Uriah's wife Bathsheba and she conceived a son. He then put Uriah in battle on the front line to be killed. When Uriah died, David married Bathsheba and she had the child they conceived. However, the child died after seven days. David repented for what he did, and God forgave him. God then blessed David and Bathsheba with Solomon (2 Samuel 11 & 12). Lastly, Saul's story of forgiveness, who during the days of the early church persecuted the disciples and supported their murders for spreading the gospel. Later on the road to Damascus, Jesus visited Saul to turn his life around so that he would spread Christianity throughout many parts of the world. Saul changed his name to Paul and became one of the greatest follow-

ers of Christ that ever lived and authored most of the New Testament (Acts 9).

Now if Jesus can forgive a swindler, an adulterer, and a persecutor of Christianity, all of the worst kind, do you think he cannot forgive you? The answer is that he can and will. We need to be reminded of this, that when Jesus died for us on that cross, he died for all our sins, past, present and future. That's why God is love. So make a decision to not run away from His love. Run towards it, and experience all His love is about.

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

Thank you for your grace, love and forgiveness. I want to be helped. I want to experience your love to its fullest. I want to stop running away from my problems and start facing the truths that are before me. I can only do this with your help. You never expect me to do this alone. Help me please. Give me strength, courage, and guidance in this very difficult journey. You are my Lord and Savior, my Rock and my Redeemer. In Jesus' name,  
Amen.

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What is one new truth you learned today?

# Day Two: Heed the Little Warnings



## TODAY'S VERSE

The one who follows instruction  
is on the path to life.

*Proverbs 10:17*

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We were in Williamsburg this past weekend on our last summer trip using our season passes to Busch Gardens. We had an awesome time visiting the park four times this summer. My daughter is just like her daddy—fast roller coasters are the only way to travel. She must have ridden the kids' Grover roller coaster twenty times this summer. She cannot wait until she is tall enough to ride all the grown-up coasters. I'm sure her daddy is just as excited as she is for that day.

At around four o'clock after a fun day in the park, we were ready to call it quits. As we looked into the sky, we saw dark clouds forming and realized it was a perfect time to make our getaway. A lot of people in the park thought the same thing so the train to the parking lot was packed. But then we noticed something else. A bunch of people were heading into the park just as the dark clouds rolled overhead and lightning flashed distantly in the sky. I asked my husband why they would go into the park when a big thunderstorm was approaching? Didn't they see the warning signs of dark clouds and thunder?

God provides warning signs all around us if we are heading in the wrong direction. But, are we keeping our eyes and hearts open to those little warnings? When I look back on my life to where God was redirecting me to leave my sales job to stay at home with my children, it started with little warnings and little bits of uneasiness about where I was in my life. For example, I spent many years waking up in the middle of the night, for sometimes three hours at a

time, worrying. I would worry about just about everything—from calls I had not made to clients, to when I would schedule my next trip, to how my boss would react when he heard I didn't get a sale, to which sales I had to get in order to make up the dollars I missed on another sale, and everything in between. After my daughter was born, I believe most of my anxiety about having a new baby stemmed not only from all the life-changes involved in being a new parent, but also from having to return to work and still be a valued salesperson. Not having a redeemed relationship with God, I didn't understand what I should be praying for. My prayers were about how He could help me find more time to travel, win that sale for me, or help me make my yearly goal so that we could have a bigger income that year. They were self-centered prayers that were about my financial comfort and my personal glory. There was still a longing in my heart—an empty place that no bonus check or recognition at the company's yearly awards banquet could ever fill.

This went on for almost four years before the little and not-so-little warnings turned into full-fledged pain and anxiety. It was shortly after my son was born when God said retrospectively, *"I love you, Courtney, and because I love you, I've got to allow more difficult circumstances so that I can get your attention. But no matter what pain I allow, I will be with you the entire time. I will never leave you."*

Have you experienced direction from God that began as little warnings but turned into more difficult circumstances? Please describe below. What was the outcome of the situation you are describing?

Look up Proverbs 16:20 and write it below.

My son was three months old and my daughter was almost two when I returned to work after my second maternity leave. I returned to work at the beginning of the toughest and most grueling time in the sales cycle—the late winter and early spring when the sales team had just four or five short months to make all their sales for the entire year. In college textbook sales, professors made book decisions the spring semester before they would start using the new book. We'd make the sale in the spring, then the college bookstores would order the new books in the summer for the start of the new school year. The spring semester was filled with travel, travel, and more travel, and you practically had to be at three places at once. With a huge territory that spanned North Carolina to Delaware, with only one rep (me) covering most of the colleges and universities in that area, it was a nearly impossible task, without having two babies at home to take care of. I was also trying to keep up my breastfeeding schedule and would take my pump with me on the airplane and in the car, store the milk, and bring it home.

My kids spent the workday at my neighbor's house who ran a daycare out of her home. But when they were sick, they had to stay at home. And when I had to travel and make a presentation at a school, I couldn't cancel, so my husband had to take time out of his job to stay at home with our sick children. We knew the routine well with our daughter, but somehow, adding one more child didn't amount to just one more sick kid. Those of you who have children close in age know that one infant plus one toddler doesn't equal two children, it equals more like three or four children. So when she got sick, my son always got sick, then it would take at least ten days for any one child to get completely better, with at least three days at home from daycare.

My full-fledged pain came in February of that spring semester. February and March are the decision

months for schools to select the textbook they want, and both my kids were sick for the six to eight weeks of those two months. I had to travel as I usually do, and as God would have it, my husband had to travel frequently during that time as well. It was a crazy time, to say the least. We had hit the rock bottom of making this lifestyle work for our family. This house of cards, which was so dependent on everything working out logistically with no kinks, collapsed hard. I remember I was at the gym one morning, trying to get away, and in tears while on the elliptical trainer. I prayed in my heart for God to get us out of this mess. I acknowledged for the first time, without turning away, that we were not in the right place. Was a large paycheck and job recognition really worth all this?

I want to continue with this tomorrow when we talk about hurts and God's healing. But before we finish today, I want to conclude with a Scripture of compassion and truth from Jeremiah 29.

Write Jeremiah 29:11 below.

Are there little warnings God has placed in your heart recently? Is there a direction you are heading that just doesn't seem quite right? Ask Him today to show you, and be open to what He has to say. Trust Him that He knows what's best for you.

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

Thank you for this lesson in direction for my life. There are some roads that I'm traveling down that I feel I'm trying to "force." If these are not your roads, show me the right ones. Help me to trust you and not to fear where you would take me. Show me the way, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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What is one new truth you learned today?

# Day Three: It Hurts, But He Heals



## TODAY'S VERSE

My son, do not take the Lord's discipline lightly or faint when you are reproved by Him, for the Lord disciplines the one He loves and punishes every son He receives.

*Hebrews 12:5-6*

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For those of you who are moms, have you ever stopped to think why you take the time to discipline your children? If you're not a mom, think about when your parents disciplined you. What is discipline really about?

Take a few moments to think about the purposes of discipline and write your answer in the space below.

We were not born with wisdom, direction, or our own ability to distinguish between right and wrong. We were born into a fallen world of selfishness and sinfulness. As newborn infants, we didn't wait patiently to be fed or to be held by our parents. Instead, we cried if we felt the slightest ping of hunger or discomfort. We wanted what we needed right then and there. We didn't care that our parents were up ten times in the middle of the night and were surviving on a couple of hours of sleep during those first several months of our life. We were self-centered, demanding,

and impatient infants.

Unfortunately, many of us can grow up and barely leave this stage behind. Looking back, I was one of them. Before I was saved by Jesus Christ, I was self-centered, demanding and impatient. Now with the Holy Spirit as my guide, He continues to steer me away from the desires of my flesh and into God's will. While this struggle between my flesh and the Holy Spirit will continue until I'm in heaven, I have a greater peace knowing God is always for me (Rom. 8:31) and always with me (Matt. 28:20).

Read Romans 7:21-25. What struggle is Paul describing? Who ultimately rescues him?

We are constantly surrounded by messages telling us we should do all we can to make ourselves happy. It is a lie. When we do nothing but care only for ourselves, we will wind up being miserable. God knows this. It is one of the main reasons why He disciplines us. As a child of God, He loves you more than you can imagine, and He is trying to show you a better way—a way that leads to life and freedom.

What is most of God's discipline about? It is about steering us away from selfishness and towards selflessness. It is about showing us the ways of the world are going to harm us in the long run, and the ways of the His kingdom are going to bring us eternal joy and peace. It's about showing us autonomy is a sin, and a full surrender and reliance on Him is the only way.

Read Luke 9:24-25. Fill in the blanks below.

For whoever wants to \_\_\_\_\_ his life will \_\_\_\_\_ it, but whoever loses his life because of me will save it. What is a man benefited if he gains the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

yet \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ himself?

It hurt when God showed me I was not in the right place in my life after having two kids and a full-time career. It was painful to realize I had put my hopes and happiness in all the wrong things. In the midst of those feelings, I was driven to my knees, asking for God's help and forgiveness. I was brought to a place of humility before God, acknowledging He alone can save me, He alone is my Joy and my Redeemer, and He alone can show me the plan for my life. And I learned the truthfulness of this verse for the first time in my life.

Write James 4:6 below right after it says, *"Therefore He says:"*

Look slightly up from verse 6 and you'll see verse 4. It's one I needed to hear. *"Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the world's friend becomes God's enemy."*

I had a friendship with the world. God showed me the truth. Our Lord is *"compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in faithful love"* (Ps. 103:8). When He reached me and I begin looking up, I started down a path of healing like no other. And instead of trying to heal myself, I let God do the healing.

First Peter 5:10 says, *"Now the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little."*

This is a promise of God's. If He allows hurt, and we look up to Him, He Himself will heal us. And we will be restored, established, strengthened, and supported. We will be redirected and changed, transformed and redeemed, healed and enlightened. And, with the proper wisdom bestowed by God, we will look back someday and be thankful for the pain in our lives that He allowed, because without it, we would have never been placed on a new path. Nothing will teach us about God's grace, love, forgiveness, and stability than a lesson in pain and redemption.

And now here I am, over four years later, a transformed child. Not perfected, but a new creation. *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away and look, new things have come"* (2 Cor. 5:17). Never in a million years would I think of God calling me to write a Bible study, let alone return to school and go to seminary. I have been given a plan for my life that brings me peace. I have a love for my children and for my husband that grows deeper every day. I have a passion for my Savior that fills me each day. This is the only way to live, Beloved Sister—the abundant life in Christ. I pray you get to experience all God has planned for you, as well as the healing and wisdom that come from heeding God's discipline. You are worth every effort God spends restoring you to Him. It's what He does best.

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

Please show me through this difficult time. Fill me with your love and comfort. Bring me out on the other side a transformed woman. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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What is one new truth you learned today?

# Day Four: Give an Account



## TODAY'S VERSE

So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

*Romans 14:12*

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After yesterday's lesson, I'm so thankful that you are still with me! If you are in this season of guidance and correction right now, know that I understand the pain you are going through. I know how difficult and even discouraging it can be. Hang in there, Beloved Sister. Don't give up, because I know the great I AM is not giving up on you. Stand strong, even if that means just surviving another day. Cry out to the Lord. He loves you so much.

I wish I could say that today's lesson gets easier. But we do ourselves no favors in the long run if we bury our head in the sand and try to ignore the truth. Stick with it. A new freedom and peace is right around the corner.

Today we're going to talk about giving an account to God after our life on this earth is all said and done. This is a very important truth to grasp and to live out on a daily basis. Every thought, every action and every decision will be accountable to God. It's a sober truth in many ways, and one to take very seriously. In 2 Corinthians 5:10, Paul writes, "*For we must all appear before the tribunal of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or worthless.*"

A little while back I read an extraordinary book called *Sifted but Saved* by W.W. Melton, edited and annotated by Robin Hardy. In Chapter 9, Dr. Melton discusses giving an account to God with a description that resonated with me when I read it. He wrote:

We will be called into the presence of the great Judge who will give us the destinies we have chosen, the clothes we have woven, and the

estates we have purchased for ourselves. Three facts make this a dreadful certainty. One, there is no escaping it for anyone. It will not be left to our option. The second thing that makes it serious is that no deed can be undone, and no life changed then. Regrets, tears, prayers, and promises will be too late. Individuals will not come there to decide their fate; that is already decided. The third thing ... is that there will be no shifting of responsibility. Each decides his own course in life; each chooses his own lot. The blame cannot be shifted to others.<sup>1</sup>

Before we move on, I want to point out some important theology to understand. For those who are saved, this judgment does not determine salvation but rather an account of how our actions truly demonstrated our love for Christ and whether we used the resources He gave us.

Look up Revelation 22:12 and write it below.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. Write out verse 14 below.

The knowledge of these truths has most certainly affected my everyday living. Every single moment of my life presents me with a choice—do I chose to remain in God's will or do I chose to go in the opposite direction? Every action, whether it be big or small, will be accounted for by God. And I take this truth very seriously.

All true believers will bear fruit in their life in one

<sup>1</sup> W.W. Melton ed. Hardy, Robin. *Sifted but Saved*. (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2001), 101.

form or another. The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30 is one of Jesus' stories to illustrate this concept.<sup>2</sup> In the parable, a man goes on a journey and entrusts his property to his three servants. One servant receives five talents, the second receives two bags, and the third, one bag, each according to his ability. The first two servants put the money they received to work at once and doubled their money. But the third servant dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. When the master returned to settle the accounts with his servants, he was very pleased with the first and second servants for investing their talents wisely. He replied, *"Well done, good and faithful slave[s]. You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share in your master's joy!"* (verses 21, 23). But he was very displeased with the third servant for wasting his talent by burying it in the ground. He replied, *"You evil, lazy slave! ... Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has 10 talents ... And throw this good-for-nothing slave into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"* (verses 26, 28, 30).

Picture yourself standing before Jesus. Would he be pleased with your use of talents, or disappointed? Are you using all He gave you to be fruitful for his kingdom? When at a crossroads of choice, do you chose His will, or your will? Even with the seemingly "little" things?

We will never be perfect here. But we can make choices to be better followers of Christ. We can spend more time studying His Word and understanding His plan for our lives and spend less time watching reality TV. We can spend more time with our loved ones and less time working to please a boss. We can spend more time serving others and spend less time shopping at Target for things we really don't need. Paul said, *"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire and to work out His good purpose"* (Phil.

<sup>2</sup> According to John MacArthur, "The parable of the talents illustrates the tragedy of wasted opportunity. The man who goes on the journey represents Christ, and the [slaves] represent professing believers given different levels of responsibility. Faithfulness is what he demands of them, but the parable suggests that all who are faithful will be fruitful to some degree. The fruitless person is unmasked as a hypocrite and utterly destroyed." John MacArthur. *The MacArthur Study Bible, New American Standard Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2006), 1409.

2:12-13).

God alone knows what changes you may need to make in your life. It is never too late, my friend. God is longing to show you. If He gently and lovingly brings to your mind some incorrect choices, ask for His forgiveness. He loves us more than you or I understand. So choose today to be the child He has planned and purposed you to be. Use your gifts and talents to be fruitful for His Kingdom. Don't allow excuses to stop you from living God's best life for you. And remember—this is not a call to perfection, but a call to faithfulness. When you stand before Him, make it your life's ambition to hear, *"Well done, good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master's joy!"*

*Dear Father,*

Please forgive me if I'm not stepping out in faith more often, using the skills you have given me. Show me the areas of my life where I need to make changes so that I'm in a better position to serve you and your Kingdom. I understand that I will have to give an account to you one day for the choices I make here on earth, and while you never expect me to be perfect and you will forgive all my mistakes, I want to live the life you've planned and purposed for me to live. Help me to do that, as only you can. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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What is one new truth you learned today?

# Day Five: The Harvest that Follows



## TODAY'S VERSE

We went through fire and  
water, but You brought us out to  
abundance.

*Psalm 66:12*

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We have come to the end of a very difficult and trying week of guidance and correction. I pray you are finishing this week with a renewed sense of wisdom only God can show you. You may have a lot ahead of you God wants to guide you through as a result of what you learned this week. Embrace it, my friend, because a harvest of righteousness and peace is promised when we submit to the loving correction of our Perfect Father in heaven.

The gift of communication God has given me also includes my flesh's and Satan's ability to severely abuse the gift. Before I traveled through this season, I had a big mouth on me that knew very little boundaries. After I became saved, I had a burning desire to grow in knowledge. But knowledge and wisdom are two very different things. While I may have learned a lot of information, I hadn't the maturity to share it with discernment. Every new piece of knowledge that came to me spilled right out of my mouth and into my husband's ears. My lack of discernment created conflict in our marriage. Spilling out truths without prayer, clear guidance, or a better knowledge of Scripture proved very hurtful.

Write Proverbs 12:18 below.

God knew there was no way I could fulfill His plan for a life in ministry without discernment in communication. I pray God will continue to improve my communication and discernment skills throughout my ministry. But the first time He had to haul me in, He had to do so fairly harshly, or I may never get the message of how important complete and total reliance on Him would be when called to communicate His truths.

This realization came a few years back during a marriage counseling session. Through this particular session God spoke to my heart, telling me that my communication of God's truths were way out of control, and that many of the things I told my husband were not to be said at that time, nor were they to be said in that way. It was a painful realization, to say the least. I had never felt so disciplined in my entire life. Not only did He show me specific Scripture references on how I was completely outside His will, but during those several days of chastening, He brought back to my mind what seemed like every single thing I had said to my husband that was poorly timed or poorly worded. Dear Lord, if that was even a slice of what Hell is like, reliving over and over again everything you ever did or said wrong, I never, ever want anyone to have anything to do with that place. It was absolutely excruciating. Words cannot describe the torment I experienced those few days.

Then, after His chastening was complete, He showed me Hebrews 12:11: *"No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it."* I remember reading it for the first time, then suddenly feeling God's loving arms surround me after He had taken me through so much heartache. I burst into tears of understanding, peace and a new love for God that I had never felt before. I suddenly understood why God had allowed such discipline—so He could set me free! He reminded me that He alone is God, and I am His child. And only

through Him and with His guidance am I to continue through this life.

Can you think of a time in your life where God has disciplined you, but now looking back, you are so thankful He did? Describe the circumstances below.

Read Psalm 118:18-21. When God chastens His beloved children, what will our eventual response be?

That time in my life was so profound that it still brings tears to my eyes. I love God so much. He showed me if I face the truths He alone knows, and if I heed His direction and allow Him to correct me, I will eventually experience a harvest of righteousness and peace that is unlike anything this world will ever know. And this wisdom and faith He has given me will continue to grow and flourish as I continue to lean on Him and be open to His truths. Choose today to allow Him to do the same for you.

*Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word. —Psalm 119:67*

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

You are truly amazing. Thank you so much for showing me there is a harvest waiting on the other side of discipline, and I should not grow weary for following your correction of me. Continue to strengthen me and guide me, and may that harvest be nothing short of an awesome reward from you when I have learned all you want me to learn. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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What is one new truth you learned today?