

MOMENTUM YOUTH BIBLE STUDY SERIES

THE CHRONICLES OF JENIAH AND URIAH
#11 - GROWING IN CHRIST
CAUGHT RED HANDED





The tap on the shoulder felt like someone hit him with a hammer. In an instant, his life flashed before him. He could see the disappointment on his father's face, the tears in his mother's eyes.

"I'm such an idiot!," Uriah thought as he followed the security guard to the back of the store. "I'm such a dummy! How could I get caught? No, how could I take something from the store without paying for it?"

His mind continued to grapple with the dumb decision to steal a candy bar out of the grocery store. The crazy thing was, he wasn't hungry, but did it just for the thrill, only to be caught red handed.

Tears began to fall as he heard the security guard call his mother to explain the situation. He sat and stared at the walls as he waited for her to arrive and pick him up.

The store decided not to press charges, but demanded that he pay for the shoplifted item and leave under the supervision of one of his parents. He wept when his mother arrived and looked at him disappointedly after paying for the stolen candy bar.

It was a silent ride home. Mom, didn't have to say much. Her tear stained eyes said it all. He hated to disappoint his mother. As they drove, he remembered conversations they had about making wise decisions and honoring other people's property. The more he thought the worse he felt. Mom's silence was deafening. He wished she would yell or scream, but this time it was just silence.

He began to feel even worse as he remembered it was only a few weeks ago that he made a decision to be baptized at summer camp. Ashamed and embarrassed, he wondered why he got baptized in the first place. He felt that he would never be "worthy" and realized that he not only disappointed his parents, but also he misrepresented being a Christian.

"It is important to know that Jesus loves us even when we make mistakes," Mom said breaking the silence.

- Romans 5:8 says "God _____ his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

“Even when we mess up, we’ve got to remind ourselves that because of our acceptance of His sacrifice, He lives in us,” she continued.

- Galatians 2:20 - *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer _____, but _____ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by _____ in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

Uriah’s eyes met hers as she said, “You know, that’s the real reason why Jesus came to earth... to die for our sins.”

- Matthew 26:28 – *“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the _____ of sins.”*

“I feel so bad. I hurt you, and I embarrassed myself and God. I will never be good enough for God to love me,” Uriah said with a tear running down his cheek. “Actually, you are correct, none of us are. That’s why Paul said God’s grace is a gift. We will never be good enough,” mom said putting her hand on his shoulder.

- Ephesians 2:8-9 *“For it is by _____ you have been saved, through faith- and this is not from yourselves, it is the _____ of God- not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

“I can’t believe I made such a dumb decision. How do I handle when I am tempted? Uriah asked reflecting on his earlier choice. “God has provision for that too. We have to look for the way out,” Mom replied.

- 1 Corinthians 10:13 – *“No _____ has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is _____; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”*

“Our goal is to grow more and more like God each day. God promises that He will continue to help us!” Mom said.

- Philippians 1:6 – “being confident of this, that he who began a _____ in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

“Ok... so God helps me grow by providing a way of escape from temptation and promises that He will be with me. How do I deal with my past?” Uriah asked pensively.

“The best answer for how to move forward is found in Philippians,” Mom replied.

- Philippians 3:13-14 “Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: _____ what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I _____ on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

“Wow. So I guess this Christian journey really is a growth process. Each day I have to trust that God is going work in me?” Uriah asked. “That’s correct son.” His mom said with a smile. “And as you trust Him, He gives you credit for the victory because of your faith in Him.”

“I wonder if God allowed this so you would know just how much He loves you! That’s definitely a reason to thank Him!”

- 1 Corinthians 15:57 - *But thanks be to God, which gives us the _____ through our Lord Jesus Christ.*