

Praise God for His Goodness and Love!



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Look at the picture on the front. Does this boy look happy? Imagine he is your older brother. You took candy that belonged to him and ate it. When your brother found out, he yelled at you and called you a thief. Realizing you were wrong, you immediately apologized and promised to replace the candy. But your brother refused to forgive you. After two weeks he's still angry. He says he'll get you back. Later, you discover things are missing from your bedroom. You wish your brother would forgive you. You want to be friends again.

Many people think God is like that older brother; always angry and looking for ways to punish us. But remember what Psalm 103:8 says? God is full of mercy, grace and love toward us. Verse 9 reminds us that God **will not always chide** (scold us). Yes, our sin makes God sad. Sometimes there are consequences that go with our sin (like losing a privilege or replacing candy you stole), but God won't continue to be angry with us or hold a grudge. God loves us and is quick to forgive when we ask him.

So, the next time something bad happens, don't think, "God must be punishing me." Remember, God doesn't **repay us according to our iniquities** (sin). If you are trusting in Jesus, God has already forgiven all your sin. There's no punishment left; Jesus paid it all. What an amazing truth!

Take time to pray and ask God to forgive your sins, then thank him for his love and mercy.