

**MON
MAY 25
2020**

RUNNING AWAY

READ Psalm 139:1-12

The LORD will keep you from all harm — he will watch over your life.

— Psalm 121:7 (NIV)

When I was young, I often ran away. I thought you had to actually run to run away, so off I would go. I wouldn't get far before my brother would catch up and bring me home. I always knew he would come and get me.

My brother joined the Army in 1946, on his 17th birthday. He had been my confidant, adviser, and protector, and I

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
How can I help bring others
back to God?

missed him terribly. While away, he wrote me letters filled with wise advice and promises that he would keep me safe. I still have those letters. He visited

home after several months, and when it was time for him to leave again, I cried and begged him to stay. I even refused to go to the train station to see him off. I didn't know that the next time I'd see him would be three months later, when his coffin would arrive at that same train station. He died of pneumonia as a complication of kidney disease.

I never physically ran away after that, but I ran in other ways. This time, God came after me. God brought me to a church where people took me in and showed me the love of Christ. I am eternally grateful for the church that set me on the path that changed my life. Although from time to time I have strayed from that path, God has always brought me back.

Prayer: Redeeming God, thank you for bringing us back when we run away. Thank you for the people you have placed in our lives who love us, watch over us, and protect us. Amen.

Grace Epperson (Michigan, USA)