

Sunday, August 11, 2024

Scripture Reading: Psalm 130

Guilt is simply God's way of letting you know that you're having too good a time. —Dennis Miller

Here's a report from *Fatherly.com* about a backyard or school yard game which children have played from time immemorial: "School districts in Alabama, California, South Carolina and Washington have banned playing tag, explaining to parents that the classic recess game undermines the lessons about consent and boundaries being taught to young students. Whether these bans represent overreach or educational consistency, they raise a question about whether or not the game, in which children chase peers and touch peers who don't want to be touched, has aged well."

Seesaws or teeter-totters are gone. Dodgeball is gone. And now tag is gone. So, just how are kids supposed to get bumps on their heads, welts on their legs and scrapes on their knees these days? Geesh!

I like what Jay Leno had to say about the "tag" brouhaha the same day this news broke concerning a school district in Massachusetts. He wondered about the last kid to get tagged. "You're IT!" And then the game is banned, and this kid is IT for the rest of his life. He's IT. He'll always be IT! Class reunion: "Oh, yeah, I remember you. You're IT."

Here's the thing: I think this is the way a lot of us feel. Whenever we walk into church, we feel like we're "IT." Even in the privacy of our homes, hospital rooms, or nursing home apartments, many of us are still carrying around some stigma, some guilt, something we'd like to lay down. We don't want to be tagged, and we don't want to feel like there's a bull's-eye on our back.

We want to be rid of *it*.

The good news is that God has removed the IT through Jesus Christ and gave us a U. You're U. You're a person. You are loved, not tagged.

As for being tagged, Jesus was the last one tagged, and now we're all home free. "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

—Timothy Merrill. For more on this subject, see "As Schools Ban Kids From Playing Tag, Psychologists Ask Why," by Lauren Vinopal, *fatherly.com*, November 1, 2021

Prayer: O God, I am so grateful that I need not carry the burdens and baggage of past mistakes. Thank you for setting me free! In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Miller*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: James 3-5

Monday: Jeremiah 27-29

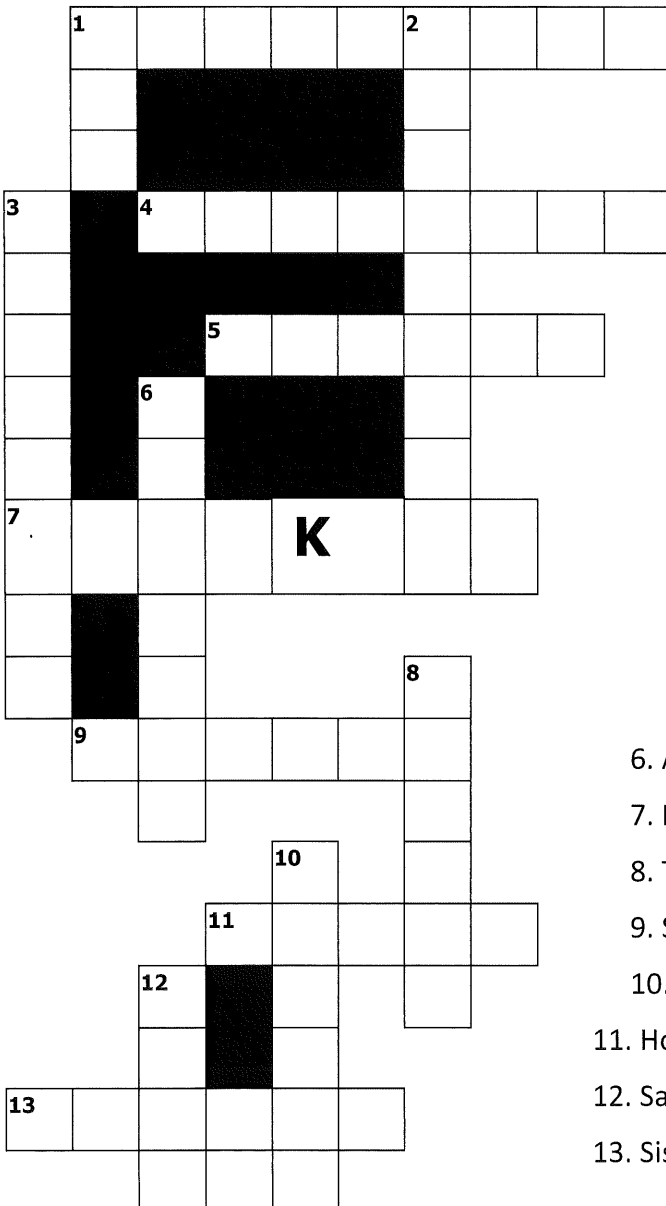
Tuesday: Jeremiah 30-32

Wednesday: Jeremiah 33-36

Thursday: Jeremiah 37-39

Friday: Jeremiah 40-42

Saturday: Psalms 88-90



Use the clues below to fill in the crossword to the left.

Clues

- 1. (Across) Cousin of Mary (Luke 1:36)
- 1. (Down) Mother of Abel (Genesis 4:1-2)
- 2. Mother of Solomon (2 Samuel 12:24)
- 3. Moses' wife (Exodus 2:21)
- 4. Lied about her giving to the church (Acts 5)
- 5. Saved her people from total destruction in Persia
- 6. A judge of Israel (Judges 4)
- 7. Mother of Esau (Genesis 25:21)
- 8. The wife Jacob loved (Genesis 29:20)
- 9. Sister of Mary (John 11:1)
- 10. Sewed clothes (Acts 9)
- 11. Hosea's wife (Hosea 1)
- 12. Sat at Jesus' feet in conversation (Luke 10:39)
- 13. Sister of Moses and Aaron (Exodus 15:20)

Answers: 1 Across: Elizabeth; 1 Down: Eve; 2: Bathsheba; 3: Zipporah; 4: Sapphira; 5: Esther; 6: Deborah; 7: Rebekah; 8: Rachel; 9: Martha; 10: Dorcas; 11: Gomer; 12: Mary; 13: Miriam