

# appnotes

## DAY **READ PSALM 1**

1

Have you ever witnessed the devastation left after a severe storm? Following the powerful winds and rains that pound the earth, it's easy to distinguish trees with strong roots from those whose roots lie hidden just beneath the surface. Psalm 1 paints a picture of what it takes to create a life that is firm, healthy and flourishing. If you want to develop a character that can withstand the storms of this life you need to surround yourself with the right influences. The Psalmist lets us know that the place to start is consistently spending time with God through the Bible. This single habit has the power to change your life like nothing else. Don't wait for the storm to hit. Begin to lay a strong foundation today.

## DAY **READ PROVERBS 24:30-34**

2

In the movie *The Karate Kid*, Mr. Miyagi trains young Daniel by having him complete seemingly unrelated tasks to the sport. As the film progresses, it becomes evident that this sensei's training was very intentional and powerful. The writer of Proverbs makes a similar parallel as he observes the house of a lazy man. What does an overgrown lawn and a weedy garden have to do with wise living? If you want to live productively, you can be passive. The sluggard puts off the important and little by little, walks a path toward destruction. There is a direct connection between work ethic and quality of life. Don't be like the sluggard. Today, reject passivity. Take care of those little tasks you've been putting off, and you'll be amazed at the effect it can have on your soul.

## DAY **READ PROVERBS 6:6-8**

3

Did you know that an ant can carry 10-50 times their body weight? As a child, I was amazed watching these tiny insects move objects that were so much larger than themselves. In today's passage the writer pens with fascination about these creatures and tells us to take note. Without having to be poked or prodded, the ant makes small, daily decisions to prepare himself for the future. It's our everyday habits that shape our character and ultimately our faith. What routines are you putting in place today so that you may reap the benefits tomorrow? Are you relying on others to motivate you or will you take ownership of your actions and take the next step? The choice is yours!

## DAY READ JAMES 2:14-26

4

Are you familiar with the adage, talk is cheap? James, the brother of Jesus, would agree. He believed that a true follower of Christ must have faith that goes beyond the intellectual and theoretical. The trouble is that 2,000 years later many Christians have lost sight of this reality. In fact, many churches pride themselves on the depth of their teaching and knowledge of the Bible. While those things are no doubt essential, James tells us they are not the ultimate goals of the church or the identifier of a Jesus follower. Real faith expresses itself in real decisions and actions. Bible knowledge will not change your life but applied Bible knowledge will. It's not enough to know what God wants us to do. We need to roll up our sleeves and do the hard work of acting on what He says!

## DAY READ EPHESIANS 5:15-17

5

Have you ever found yourself saying that you don't have time for something? No doubt we all feel the pinch of overbooked and overcrowded schedules. Time is our most precious asset. Unlike money or food, it's not renewable. However, the reality is that we have all the time we need, if we manage it properly. That's why the Apostle Paul urges us to use it wisely and carefully, making the most of every moment. Once a moment is gone, it's gone! That's why it's so important to have a plan for your time. Determine what is essential in your schedule. Decide in advance what is non-negotiable. Don't give into the temptation to say yes to everything, because in doing so you diminish the quality and effectiveness of life's most essential resource.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

**[facebook.com/parkerhill.org](https://facebook.com/parkerhill.org)**