

# appnotes

## DAY 1 READ GENESIS 39:1-23

1

If anyone had reason to feel alone, it was Joseph. He was often alone in a foreign land as a prisoner and a slave. Hopefully, we'll never experience those hardships, but there is something Joseph had that we can have, too: the presence of God. Over and over in the passage, we read, "The LORD was with Joseph." We have that too! He promised, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." What does it mean that Christ is with us? It means the God who created us is involved in our everyday lives, and He cares about what we face. Whether we face loss, loneliness, health problems, or financial struggles, Jesus is with us; this truth gives us the hope and the confidence to live with truth and integrity.

## DAY 2 READ EXODUS 3:1-12

2

Have you ever had to pack up and move to a new place? It can be intimidating to start over somewhere new. Even without relocating, taking a new job can bring fear and uncertainty: am I cut out for this? Do I have what it takes? Moses faced a similar challenge when God spoke to him from a burning bush and said, "Moses, I have a job for you!" God wanted Moses to go up against the most powerful ruler in the world; no wonder Moses was afraid! But God said, "Certainly, I will be with you." God didn't say it would be easy, and He didn't promise Moses that Pharaoh would respond well. But He promised Moses he wouldn't be without help, and we have the same promise. Whatever task lies before us, we can accomplish it because we are not alone!

## DAY 3 READ PSALM 139:1-18

3

Did you ever have that moment in school where you looked at everyone else and thought, "There's no one else like me"? Our school days can be sad and lonely days. But perhaps, then, you found that one person, or a group of people, who made you feel like you were part of something. We all seek those relationships because we all want to be known. In Psalm 139, David tells us that God has known us even before we were born. He knows every thought even if we don't say it out loud. And, even though He knows all that, He still wants a relationship with us so badly that He sent His Son to die for our sakes, so that we can have a relationship with Him. He already knows us and wants us to know Him too!

## DAY

### 4

#### READ ROMANS 8:31-39

I've got a travel tip for you: If you ever get a chance to visit Ellis Island, get an audio tour and listen to the recording as you walk through the museum. Refugees seeking a new life would spend three weeks on a ship, then two days in New York's harbor for quarantine before final screening and admittance to the U.S. That was just the beginning for many fathers who came before their families. But, after working tirelessly to raise enough money to bring their loved ones to America, the men would gather at the bottom of the steps to be reunited. After paying their way, no obstacle would stop them from being reunited with their families. Is there any doubt that God won't let anything separate us from His love after He paid the highest price to make us His own?

## DAY

### 5

#### READ PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Have you ever listened to someone rattle off their struggles and thought, "Oh, friend, you have no idea what a struggle really is!"? Sometimes I wonder if the apostle Paul could hear me if he isn't shaking his head, saying, "You have no idea!" We know from the Bible that Paul was beaten, imprisoned, stoned, and shipwrecked multiple times; that he endured danger from natural and personal sources. And yet he says "Rejoice always!" Rejoice because it can't get any worse? Nope, he'd eventually be martyred for his faith. Rejoice because it will get better? Nope, same again! What then? Verse 5 says, "For the Lord is near." We can endure hardships with joy because the God who created us, loves us, and sent His Son to die for us, is right there with us!

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