

# appnotes

## DAY 1

### READ PSALM 19:1-8

Have you heard the whispers? For some, they come in the quiet moments of the morning when the first rays of light start to fill the room. Others hear them when gazing into a star-studded night sky. Maybe for you it was when you stood at the cusp of the Grand Canyon or took in the majesty of Niagara Falls. These whispers tell our souls that there is more to life. And, that we were made for more. They testify that life is more than money and making it big. All around us creation broadcasts that there is a Creator. And if there is a Creator, then you are not an accident. Your life has purpose. Your decisions matter, as the Apostle Paul put it, “For both the present life and the life to come” (1 Timothy 4:8).

## DAY 2

### READ PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21

Have you ever noticed that you cannot focus on two things at once? You can try, but it will just leave you dizzy and disoriented. If you focus on the wrong things, you'll miss what really matters. If you're staring at your phone, you could miss special moments with your kids. If you are caught up in your own little story, you'll miss out on God's greater story. In today's passage, Paul is urging Christians to lock their eyes on the eternal things of Heaven instead of the temporary things on Earth. Having Heaven on your mind makes you a whole lot more helpful here on Earth.

## DAY 3

### READ HEBREWS 11:13-16

Dorothy was right, “There is no place like home.” Nothing compares to coming home to where you belong. For those who have joined God's family, Heaven is home - which means that we are, like those who have gone before us, just visitors on Earth. Like a backpacker looking forward to a hot shower and her own bed, we will always long for home on this side of Heaven. We will be tempted to go back to our old ways to make the ache go away. But this world is not our home. Nothing here compares to what God has prepared for us there.

## DAY READ GENESIS 3:1-24

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Have you ever had great plans totally fall apart? Did your car break down on the first leg of your grand road trip? Or, did the kids revolt against your creative family night? Did the weather refuse to cooperate with your outdoor plans? As traumatic as those experiences might have been for you, imagine what it was like when God's paradise imploded. The first couple had their first fight. Giving birth became a giant pain. Work became a frustrating wrestling match. One of Adam's kids killed the other (and you thought your kids were bad!). We made a mess of God's masterpiece. But, from the shattered remnants God began the Great Restoration. He started by clothing Adam and Eve in skins and promising a Deliverer. Now, He clothes us in the righteousness of Christ.

## DAY READ ROMANS 8:18-27

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Do you know what a young man with severe OCD, a kid with diabetes, and a woman with cancer all taught me? That perspective is powerful. In the face of heart-wrenching hardships, they had faith. Like today's passage teaches, we all suffer. We all have to face the brokenness of this life. Even though we all suffer, we do not all suffer the same way. They saw their circumstances through the lens of God's love and their promised future with Him. And, you know what? It changed their experience. They still suffer, but they have grown deeper. Today, they say, "I wouldn't change a thing because of how it has brought me closer to God." Our present suffering stinks at times, but it is not worth comparing to what it will be like to live with Christ forever.

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

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