

appnotes

DAY READ ACTS 8:26-39

1

If you want to start a conversation, ask a question. If you want to stop a conversation before it starts, begin by telling them what you think. You will only know what to ask when you listen. In today's reading, Philip listened. He was attuned to God. His eyes and ears were open to God's leading. When God said, "Go to that chariot," Philip heard Him and obeyed. When God prompted Philip to walk beside the chariot and just listen quietly for a while, Philip heard Him and obeyed. And when God gave Philip a question to open a dialogue with the eunuch about the good news of Jesus, Philip asked the question. Philip listened to the man's question. Philip listened more than he talked, and so had the opportunity to share. Try it this week!

DAY READ JOHN 3:1-17

2

Have you ever avoided asking an important question because you didn't want to look foolish? What courage it took for Nicodemus to approach Jesus even though the encounter happened in the dead of night! There he was, a member of the Jewish ruling council, a man thoroughly trained in the Jewish faith, a religious teacher who should have had all the answers. But Nicodemus knew that something was missing—he was empty on the inside. Jesus knew his background, and he spoke simply and directly of God's love. "For God so loved the world," Jesus explained to Nicodemus, "that He gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." A one-sentence attention-getting message lavished with the love of God.

DAY READ JOHN 7:37-39

3

Who would choose to drink the stagnant, bug-infested water of a pond rather than the fresh, clean water of a spring? Many people in today's world do just that; they settle for dirty water (see Jeremiah 2:13). They try to quench the thirst of their hearts with money, possessions, glamor, drugs, sex, or power. None of these offer complete, long-term satisfaction. A life can be filled with any of these things and still be empty. God's plan for us is to find our total satisfaction and completion in Him. He is the living, moving, active water of life. God refers to Himself as a "spring of living water." The one who trusts in God will receive His Spirit. An unending river of living water will flow from His life. The Spirit brings spiritual health, beauty, and fulfillment. Jesus will satisfy your thirst.

DAY READ LUKE 15:1-32

4

What's the biggest party you've ever attended? Did people dress up? Was there music and dancing? Great food and drink? Did laughter fill the venue? Do you know what is amazing? Jesus unleashes all the celebration power of heaven when one spiritually "lost" person comes to God! In fact, Jesus said that heaven rocks with the rejoicing of the angels of God when one sinner repents. The heart of Jesus is for the lost. There was a party when a lost coin was found, a lost sheep was discovered, and a lost son was welcomed home. Heaven resounds with celebration every time one person finds the way back to God. What gives you cause for great celebration? Is it a lost soul who returns to God? Ask God to give you His heart for the lost.

DAY READ 2 KINGS 5:1-19

5

Does your desire to see people come to Christ have limits? Would you have the courage and compassion of the young Jewish slave girl in this story? She was a captured slave, yet she had compassion on her captor, Naaman. She was forced to live in an idolatrous and foreign culture, yet she longed to point her master to the one true and living God. She was a young female—two strikes against her in any ancient culture—yet she knew God would give her the courage to speak up. And because she directed Naaman to the man of God, Elisha, a miracle happened that changed Naaman both physically and spiritually forever. And all it took was the love and courage of a little girl with a big faith in a powerful God. Will you have the courage and compassion to point people to God?

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