

appnotes



DAY 1

READ JOB 1

Job was a man who you'd probably envy. He was wealthy, well-respected, and successful in his career. He had the nicest house, drove the nicest chariot and had the picture-perfect family. Then, out of nowhere, Job lost everything in a matter of hours. Rather than pointing the finger at God and questioning his will, Job trusted God implicitly. Job recognized that in good days and bad days, God's character is unchanging and His love remains consistent. No matter what circumstances you are facing today...sickness or health, a promotion or a lay-off; God is in control and has a plan for your life.

READ 1 PETER 4:12-19

Unless you're a little twisted, you don't like pain. In fact, most of us do everything in our power to avoid any kind of pain. It doesn't matter if it's physical, mental, or emotional, we go out of our way and seek comfort and security. So as followers of Jesus what do we do with Peter's instructions? He is letting us in on a secret that you're probably already aware of: we live in an imperfect world where trouble, pain, and heartache are the norm. Peter encourages us to stop trying to live for comfort that is fleeting and unpredictable. Instead, let's trust in our God who never fails us, even on the worst days.

DAY 2

DAY 3

READ JOHN 16:16-33

If you've ever given birth or witnessed the birthing process you know that it's a beautiful, mysterious, breath taking, emotionally draining experience. You also know that it's extremely painful for the mother. But the moment that baby lets out their first cry and finds their way into mom's arms, the pain is a distant memory compared to the joy of this new life! Jesus uses the picture of birth to describe our lives on earth. We're experiencing the birth pains of living in an imperfect world. But a time is coming when we will experience life as God intended it to be. When we are ushered into eternity all the heartache and all the unanswered questions will be a distant memory as we experience the new life that God has in store for us. Even though it's painful now, the best is yet to come.

DAY 4

READ HABAKKUK 3:1-19

Habakkuk was a prophet who just could not come to grips with why God was doing what He was doing. Habakkuk lived in Judah during a time where they were being invaded by a foreign power. Habakkuk was frustrated by God's seeming inaction in the world and a lack of justice. Can you relate? Do you ever wonder why God is allowing something to happen in your life? Are you sick and tired of people who do whatever they want to get ahead in life? Throughout this account Habakkuk and God go back and forth. But here is the cool thing: God is open to having a conversation with Habakkuk. God doesn't close his heart to Habakkuk. Instead, God helps Habakkuk understand that His plan is good and He can be trusted no matter what.

DAY 5

READ PSALM 42:1-11

We all hope for something. We prepare for it, even pray for it. But sometimes, despite all our efforts, it simply doesn't happen. Sometimes the thing we long for is seemingly unattainable. Those desires that have been unanswered time and again can make us sick to our stomach. The Psalmist commands his spirit to "hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God." The tension in hoping for God to fulfill a desire, and then waiting for Him to do it is often palpable. But living in that tension is where we find God. As we seek and obey Him, He will transform us to be like Jesus. No matter what it is that we hope will happen, it will not bring us the satisfaction that only Jesus can offer.