

# appnotes

**September 29-October 3, 2014**

At Parker Hill, we believe that independent Bible study is critical to the growth of every believer, regardless of where we are in our journey of faith. Regular Bible study, reflection, and prayer should be a daily part of our lives. We created AppNotes to help you cultivate that habit of daily study and to provide a way for Sunday's teaching to resonate through the week. We also provide these AppNotes Monday–Friday on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/parkerhill.org](https://www.facebook.com/parkerhill.org)) where you can like, share, and engage in discussion.

**Read Genesis 39:19-23**

**DAY 1** After Joseph was falsely accused of harassing Potiphar's wife he was put in prison. What did he do? Was he bitter because of the unfair circumstances? Did he wallow in misery and defeat? Even in the cruddiest of situations, Joseph worked hard and gained influence. God had honored Joseph's attitude and work ethic making him invaluable to the prison guard. He was literally given the keys to the jail and managed the whole operation as a prisoner! If you want to gain influence you need to become invaluable to your boss. Complaining about your circumstances won't take you where you want to go.

**Read Daniel 3:1-30**

**DAY 2** Sometimes as followers of Christ we're tempted to compromise our values. We fear that taking a stand will cost us something—maybe even the job itself. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego understood the pressure we feel to conform. Their boss, an egocentric King named Nebuchadnezzar, threatened their very lives if they didn't practice conformity. Rather than give in to his demands, they remembered that they served a God who was bigger than the consequences they were facing. They took a stand and God came through. Their resolve to stand strong was instrumental in Nebuchadnezzar's story of coming to faith in the one true God. Who are you influencing as you follow Christ in the workplace?

**Read Daniel 6:1-28**

**DAY 3** After sixty-plus years of faithful service in Babylon Daniel had gained some major influence. The thing about influence is that it comes at a cost. Some people had grown jealous of Daniel's influence, and jealousy leads us to do some crazy things. Daniel's co-workers created a trap that put him in a pit with some hungry predators. Rather than whine about these unjust circumstances, Daniel was confident that God would set these wrongs aright. And that's exactly what God did. He provided protection and let justice take its course. Our job is to be faithful to God. He will take care of the rest.

**Read Matthew 5:38-48**

DAY

4

Everybody talks about their boss behind their back, right? But if you're a Christ-follower, you have a higher calling. Jesus instructs us to turn our backs on conventional wisdom. "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." If your boss is a jerk, are you loving and praying for him anyway? It's easy to love what Jesus says, but putting it into practice is something else entirely.

**Read 1 Peter 2:18-25**

DAY

5

When Peter is writing to slaves, it's really referring to bond-servants or employees. Peter tells us that as Christ-followers, we must follow the example of Jesus who suffered unjustly but entrusted Himself to God. If your boss is cruel to you because your work is sloppy and you deserve it, that's nothing to complain about! However, if you work hard day after day in a work environment that's difficult, you will be put in a position to rely on God for the strength to push through.