

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

DAY 4

See if you can figure out the code to fill in the blanks. Hint: Count each letter of the alphabet.

____ _ ____ _ ____ _ ____ _ ____ _ ____ _ ____ _ ____ _
7 15 4 11 14 15 23 19 20 8 5 5 14 4 15 6 20 8 5 19 20 15 18 25

There's no one like our God. His ways are higher than our ways. His plans are bigger than we can possibly imagine. But like this verse says, He's given us a way to understand through His Spirit.

Thinking about heaven is enough to make anyone's head spin. But at the same time, God's spirit helps us to know, deep down, that what He's promised us is TRUE. The Spirit helps us wrap our minds around things that we could never "get" just on our own understanding.

God wanted us to know that He does have a plan for this world, and for each one of us individually. He loves us so much the He gave us Jesus to make a way for us to be part of His family forever. And He's created a perfect place for us eternally. That gives us all the hope we need to keep going and finish the work He's called us to do here and now.

Thank God for giving His Spirit to help us when we believe and trust in Him.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Have you ever tried to imagine the idea of infinity in math class? Isn't it crazy to think about?
2. What does it show us about God's love for us that He gave us His Spirit to help us understand His ways?
3. Aren't you glad God prepared a way for us to see a glimpse of how big He is? How does that help you live each day with confidence and determination?



READ REVELATION 21:4-5

DAY 1

EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.

Isn't that what we really want to know, in the end? It's what we tell each other when something goes wrong, or when we're scared, or when we don't know what to do. The great thing is, when you believe and trust in Jesus, you know for SURE that everything will be all right in the end. You know that even though the world is full of sadness and pain—and even death—that's not the end of the story.

So what is the end of the story? When you believe, you know for sure that God has promised you Heaven. You know that through Jesus, you have forgiveness of your sins. Sin is no longer in the way between you and God. You can have a relationship with your perfect heavenly Father that will last forever, because of what Jesus did for you. There's a lot we don't know about heaven. But these verses bring us life and hope and purpose, because they are a promise that God knows the end of the story. We'll be with HIM—with no tears, sadness, crying, pain, or death. He is making everything new!

Thank God for the truth that He's in control and He knows the end of the story.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Have you ever been to a memorial service? Did it bring you hope when you listened to the person who spoke?
2. Have you ever asked your mom or dad about heaven and what it means to them? (If not, you should!)
3. How does the promise of heaven help you to have purpose and determination for your life right now?

READ ISAIAH 25:7-8

DAY 2

Quick, grab one of your shoes with laces. Take one of the laces out and hold it between your hands.

It's impossible for us to even imagine the idea of eternity, but this is a fun way to try. You know that little plastic part on the end of the lace that you poke through the holes when you're lacing the shoe? Think of that part as your life here on earth. Think of the rest of the lace as eternity, but pretend it goes on and on and on and on to infinity! That's mind-blowing, right?

That's what's so cool about God's view of time. He sees the **WHOLE** story. We've seen just the tiniest little glimpse. And even though our troubles are real, they are so temporary in the grand scope of the universe, all that God has created, and all that He has planned.

Speaking of the whole story, these verses come from the prophet Isaiah, back in the Old Testament. He's the one who spoke for God and made some amazing predictions about Jesus being the Savior of the world. And when John wrote what we call the book of Revelation, he was remembering what Isaiah had said so long ago: that God would wipe away our tears and forgive our sins forever.

As you lace up your shoe again, remember that God's love for you is infinite and never-ending!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Is it comforting to you to know that God's view of time is infinite? Why?
2. Why do you think it's important to see the Bible as one **BIG** story of God?
3. Do you think most people have the confidence and determination that comes from being sure of heaven? How do you think you can share the hope you have with your actions?

READ MATTHEW 6:10

DAY 3

Have you ever skipped ahead to the last page of a book, or the last scene of a movie? Maybe you just couldn't wait to find out how it ended. Or maybe a friend was talking about it before you got a chance to see it (spoiler alert!).

In a way, that's kind of the situation we're in. We already know the end of the story. We know that God will rule forever, and that He has prepared a place in heaven for those who have put their faith in Him. We've skipped ahead to the end. We already know what's going to happen.

But what about right now in the meantime? It's clear that this world is not a perfect place. It's full of things that are *not* the way they should be. People treat each other terribly. In many ways, it's a messed-up place.

But the great news is, we already know that this isn't all there is to the world. We have hope in what **WILL** be. And right now, we can be part of bringing God's truth and light to a dark world.

In these verses, Jesus was teaching His friends how to pray. He prayed to His Father, *May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven* (NirV). In other words, we believe that heaven is perfect. And since this world is not perfect, we can be part of what God is doing here on this earth. While we're here today, we can share His love with others and help them discover the hope we have in Jesus.



THINK ABOUT IT:

1. How does it change the way you live your life when you know that God has already planned the end of the story?
2. Even though we already know the ending, why is it important to make the most of our days now and live with purpose and determination?
3. Can you think of a Jesus-follower you know who is spending their life doing something great to serve others? Have you ever asked them why they do it?