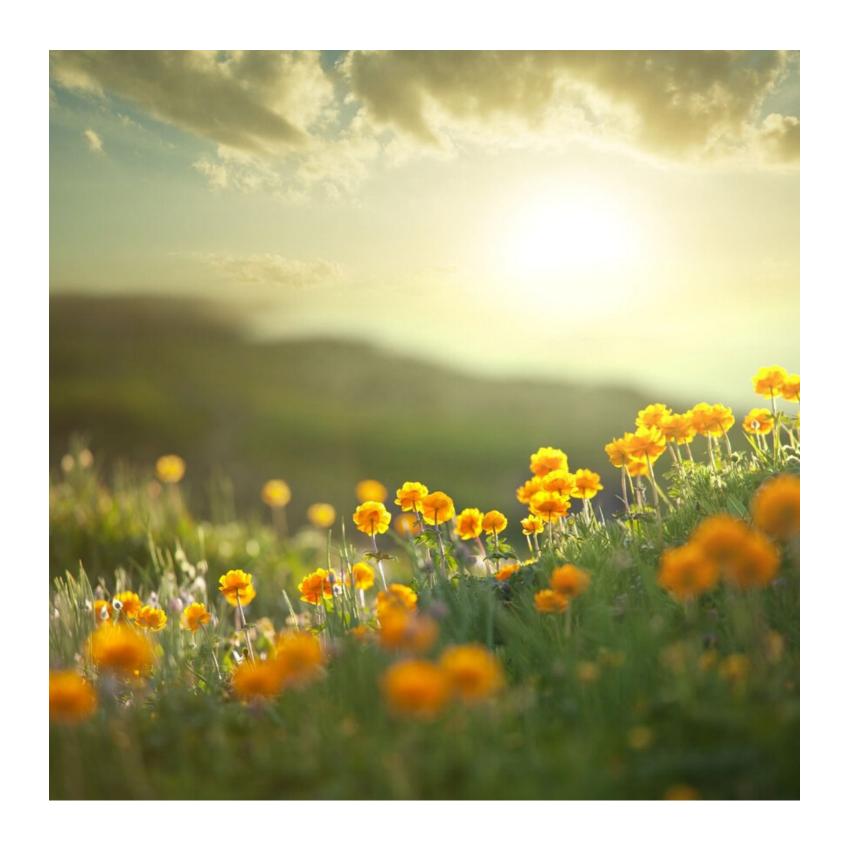


Nature and the Bible

LEARNING ABOUT GOD THROUGH HIS CREATION

BY: CHELSEA GENTRY



Day 1:

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

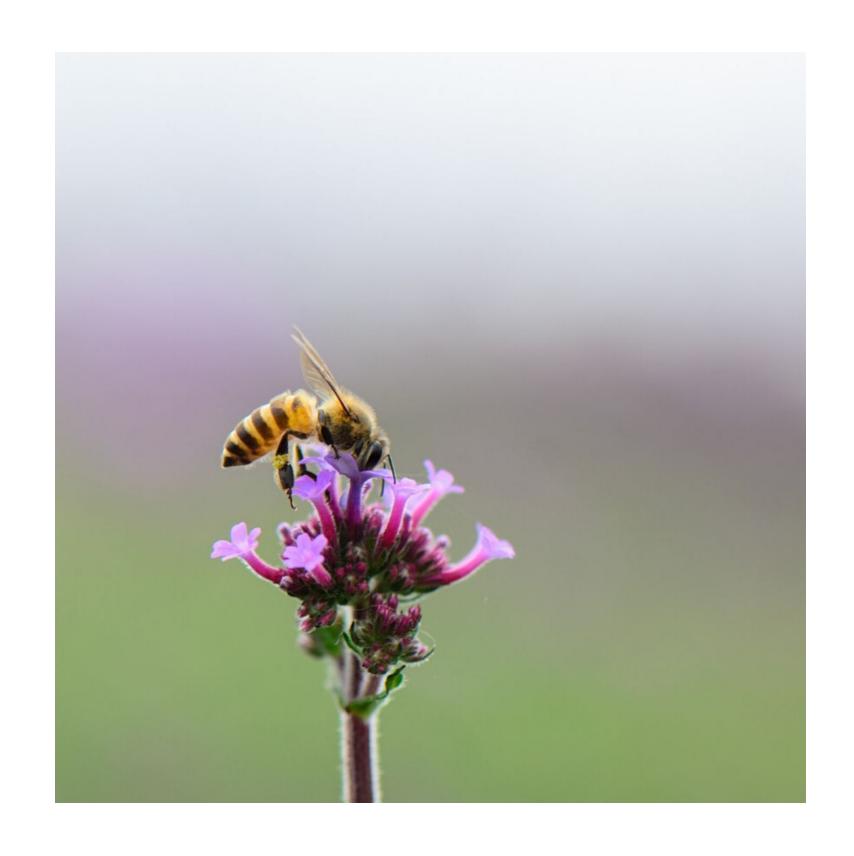
– Isaiah 40:8

Everything feels unpredictable and out of my control lately. Sure, on an average day hardly anything is within my control, but can we all agree that social distancing during a pandemic has been the most out of body experience of all time?

They say when you are having an anxiety attack to look for solid objects in the room. Touch a table or dresser to give yourself some stability. From my experience, it truly does help, but in a season of constant insecurity, what can we grasp for? Sometimes the table doesn't feel like enough.

Scripture says there is one thing that never changes, the word of God. Our God is everlasting. You can cling to Him always. When the world around you feels like its tilting and shaking and falling apart, cling to your Heavenly Father who is the same today was He was yesterday and will be forever.

How does the consistency of God give you comfort?



Day 2:

"Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body."

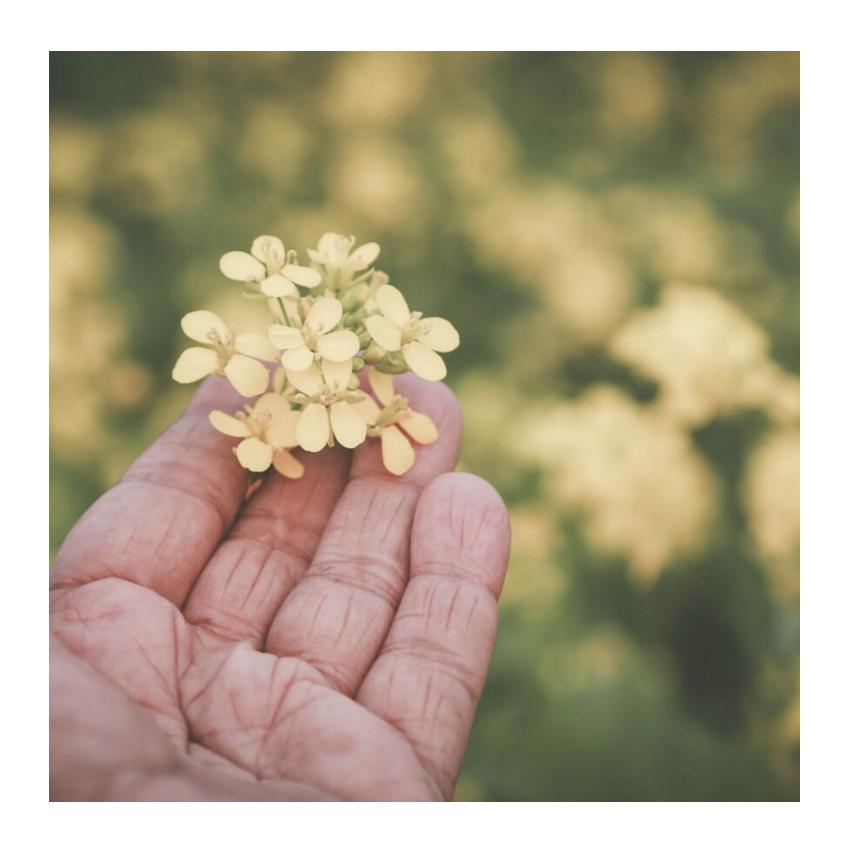
- Proverbs 16:24

Once for Valentines Day my husband filled an envelope with tiny plastic bees, so when I opened my card bugs came pouring out. I screeched and flung it across my desk. The sentiment was spot on, but the execution... not so much.

You see, I had just recently stood on my soap box and complained about people using pesticides. I said without bees we would have no flowers or chocolate. We would not have Valentine's Day! See what he did there? He listened to my rant and gave me bees in my Valentine. Gosh I love that man.

Another thing I love about my husband is that he always thinks before he speaks. He thinks a LOT. Sending a simple text takes five minutes, because he knows words hold power. They can be sweet or sour to the soul.

How can you words and actions be as sweet as honey today?



Day 3:

"It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

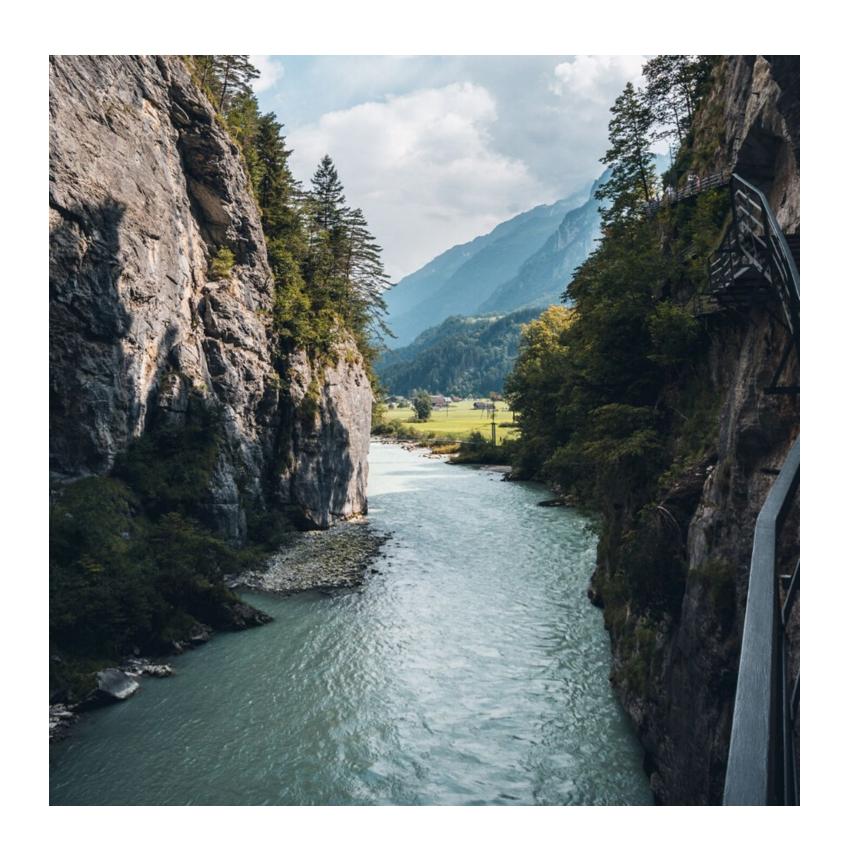
- Matthew 13:32

The mustard seed was the smallest of all agricultural seeds in Palestine. When we were in Israel we saw mustard plants everywhere. They grow to a height of 8-12 feet. Such a big plant growing from such a tiny seed!

Jesus came to this earth as a tiny baby. An innocent, helpless child. No one in that age could have known the impact a tiny little baby could make not only on the world, but on eternity.

It's easy to underestimate what we do not understand, but our God is a great big God. He created the world from nothing, and He is stronger than whatever challenge we are walking through.

What small step can you take today to create big change?



Day 4:

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life."

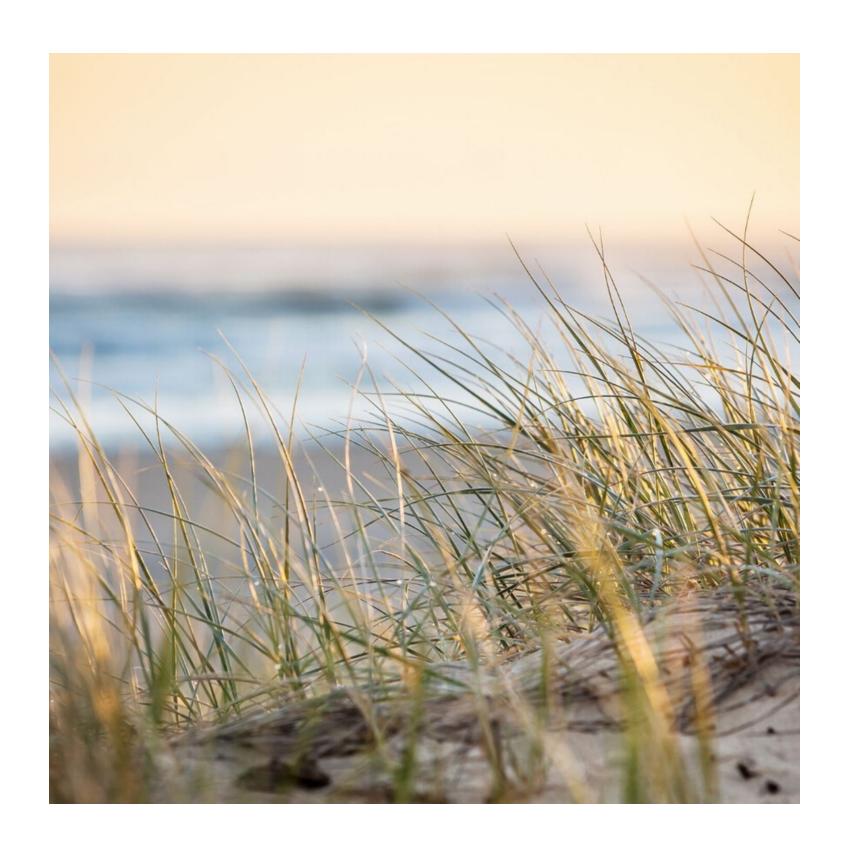
- Revelation 21:6

God's grace is without cost. He gives salvation freely without asking anything in return. It's a gift we simply need to accept, that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

He is Alpha and Omega, Beginning and the End. Who better to put your faith in than the creator of all things?

In an season when everything feels out of control and overwhelming, I welcome this reminder that God is in control. This pandemic did not surprise Him. My worries and anxieties do not overwhelm Him. He is much more capable than I often give Him credit.

What worries can you release in prayer to the King of Kings today?



Day 5:

"The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

- Matthew 8:27

Jesus spoke and the sea obeyed. He rebuked the waves and they were calm. That's all it took. Our God has more power in the words He speaks than all of humanity. Creation obeys Him. Honestly, how crazy is that?

When I look at the ocean all I see is vastness, power and mystery. But our God created the oceans. He crafted the cells that form hydrogen and oxygen. Knowing He possesses that power should put us at ease.

Think of all the moments throughout scripture in which God displays His power and authority over creation. He parted the Red Sea, created a tornado of fire, sent various plagues... and that's all within the book of Exodus.

When have you seen God display his power and authority in your life or in creation?



Day 6:

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."
- Psalm 103:12

I struggle with letting go of the past. There are things I did as a preteen that I sometimes still feel badly about. What helps me flush those memories from my mind is this verse.

God has already forgiven me for my mistakes. He washed me clean and made me new a long time ago. I don't need to hold on to every little thing I have done wrong and punish myself with remembering. I can release that guilt, because as he removed those transgressions completely.

So those things I said and did as a dramatic teenager no longer matter. They hold no weight. God has made me new, and for that I am eternally grateful.

Do you struggle forgiving past mistakes?



Day 7:

"Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce" – Proverbs 3:9

You've probably heard of the first fruits in various parts of scripture. From the creation of man God has called for His people to give Him the first fruits of their labor. So what are first fruits?

It's exactly that: the first. Whatever crop you grow (literal or otherwise), you give the first of that crop to God. Example: before you go paying your bills or buying groceries, you tithe your paycheck.

Why? Because nothing on this earth belongs to us anyway. We honor God by giving him the very first and best that we make, because everything comes from Him. He gave to us and we give back. How can you honor God with your first fruits today?

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO STUDY THESE 7 DAYS OF NATURE AND THE BIBLE. I HOPE YOU WERE ABLE TO GLEAN FROM THE VARIOUS SCRIPTURES. ALL SCRIPTURE IS TAKEN FROM THE ESV TRANSLATION. FEEL FREE TO EMAIL ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR FEEDBACK, AS I WELCOME BOTH!

GOD BLESS!
Chelsea



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