

Genie FRANCIS

Ted McGINLEY

Notes from  
the Heart Healer

# The *Note* III

STUDY GUIDE

With faith, every day  
is a second chance







## CAST OVERVIEW

Genie Francis (Peyton MacGruder)

Ted McGinley (King Danville)

Laci Mailey (Violet Johnson)

Brenda Crichlow (Dot)

Rob Morton (Hugh)

Marilyn Norry (Tilly)

Dale Wilson (Harry)

## USING THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Intended for use after viewing the film, this study guide provides catalysts for biblically based discussion of various themes found in *The Note III: Notes From the Heart Healer*. The guide features three themes from the movie and is structured in such a way that groups can choose to discuss the entire guide at once or can focus on one or two themes at a time.

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## FILM OVERVIEW/ NOTE TO GROUP

Based on characters created by author Angela Hunt, *The Note III: Notes From the Heart Healer* continues the story of journalist Peyton MacGruder. (Genie Francis reprises her role.) Amidst the backdrop of Constant Harbor, Washington, Peyton and her husband, King Danville (Ted McGinley), hope to celebrate Peyton's book tour and their first wedding anniversary. These plans change, though, when a young mother's act of desperation forces Peyton, King and others in the small town to consider the realities of suffering, the power of compassion and the beauty of second chances.

As the film opens, Violet Johnson (Laci Mailey) meets with hardship after hardship. Within the span of a day, the young woman loses her job and home, is rebuffed by her unloving mother and grows weaker physically while trying to care for her infant son. As she drives aimlessly, Violet hears Peyton's voice on the radio, sharing about some of her own difficulties and offering encouraging words to those in tough places. Determined to meet Peyton at the book signing that evening, Violet steers her truck toward Constant Harbor and, hopefully, life-changing advice.

At the bookstore, Peyton senses that Violet needs help, but their conversation is interrupted by King's arrival, a surprise orchestrated by Dot (Brenda Crichlow), Peyton's longtime friend, to celebrate the couple's first anniversary. In the ensuing excitement, Violet quietly leaves. Later that night, after a special dinner with King, Peyton hears a knock on the door and answers it to find a baby and a note: *Please help me by taking care of Charlie*. Despite their utter shock, Peyton and King agree to care for the child while Dot and the sheriff search for answers.



## THEME ONE: SUFFERING

**Guiding Scripture:** Matthew 11:28 (NIV): “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

During the night, Violet hitchhikes to Ruckston, where she collapses at the entrance of a women’s shelter and clinic. When she wakes, she gives a false name. Back in Constant Harbor, Charlie’s presence makes Peyton uncomfortable at first, reminding her of the shame she felt in giving up her own baby. Soon, though, Peyton’s painful memories give way to maternal instinct and longing, and she asks Dot for legal advice concerning the adoption process. King, however, has plans for a child-free retirement, and these differing opinions cause some marital stress.

Eventually, Violet goes back to Constant Harbor to claim Charlie, but the law catches up with her, and she must prove to the court – and to Dot and Peyton – that she is a capable mother. As Peyton learns more about Violet’s tragic story, including the death of her fiancé, she feels tremendous compassion for her and helps her not only keep her child, but also reconcile with her late fiancé’s father. The situation with Charlie softens King’s perspective, too, and he and Peyton leave Constant Harbor with a different view to the future, one that might include a child. Or two.

### SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

- Psalm 46:1–3 (NIV): “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.”
- Psalm 55:22 (NLT): “Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall.”
- Proverbs 3:5–6 (NIV): “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”
- Nahum 1:7 (NLT): “The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust in him.”
- Matthew 11:28 (NIV): “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
- John 14:27 (NIV): “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”
- Romans 8:35, 37–39 (NIV): “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV): “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”
- Philippians 4:6 (NIV): “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NIV): “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
- Hebrews 4:15–16 (NIV): “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”
- 1 Peter 5:7 (NIV): “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”





## SCENES TO REVIEW

- Unemployment (00:00:00–00:02:26, Chapter 1)
- Rejection (00:05:14–00:09:07, Chapter 2)
- Flashback/The Decision (00:19:17–00:23:10, Chapter 4)
- Help and Trust (00:47:00–00:48:31, Chapter 10)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Guiding Scripture for this theme is Matthew 11:28: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” With these words, Jesus does not promise that life will be free from pain; rather, He acknowledges suffering and offers refuge from the storm. At times, though, the overwhelming nature of suffering can blind us to that beautiful, sacred rest.

For Violet, hardship seems to be a constant companion. And the ever-increasing obstacles she faces take tolls on her physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. As she watches the remnants of her meager support network collapse around her, she can hardly fathom her next move . . . until she hears an encouraging voice on the radio and decides to pursue the lead.

## SCENES TO REVIEW

*Unemployment (00:00:00–00:02:26, Chapter 1)*

*Rejection (00:05:14–00:09:07, Chapter 2)*

- Based on the first Scene to Review (*Unemployment*), what are your impressions of Violet? What can you tell about her circumstances from this scene alone?
- In the second Scene to Review (*Rejection*), what do you think of the interaction between Violet and her mother? How would you describe their relationship?

- How does Peyton’s radio interview relate to Violet’s current circumstances? What does the interview suggest about Peyton’s own history with suffering and tough decisions?
- What about you? Can you relate to Violet? Have you experienced (or are currently experiencing) a time of suffering during which you felt nearly hopeless?

Take a look at Romans 8:35, 37–39 and 2 Corinthians 12:9 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- What does the Romans passage tell us about the “love of Christ” and the “love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord”? How does Christ’s love relate to our suffering?
- According to 2 Corinthians 12:9, what does suffering produce? In your own words, describe some ways in which the process of suffering is spiritually beneficial.

As Violet runs out of strength, money and options, she reflects on a memory of Zach, Charlie’s father, and regrets the fact that things haven’t turned out the way they were supposed to. With a brief, earnest prayer that Peyton is a woman of her word, Violet takes Charlie to Peyton’s doorstep. Inside the cottage, Peyton is contemplating the effects of life-changing decisions.

## SCENE TO REVIEW

*Flashback/The Decision (00:19:17–00:23:10, Chapter 4)*

- Based on Violet’s memory, what do you learn about her former life? How does this awareness contribute to your understanding of her current (and tough) situation?

As Peyton works on her column, she writes, “It’s unfair that life-changing decisions must often be made when we’re young and our well of wisdom is still shallow.”

- What do you think of Peyton’s assessment? Do you agree or disagree? Do our youthful choices influence the amount of suffering that we might encounter? Why or why not?
- Peyton also writes that we must take responsibility “no matter how things turn out.” How does this apply to Violet’s situation? Do you think Violet takes responsibility?
- Considering everything that Violet has endured thus far, what can you surmise about her physical and mental condition as she leaves Charlie with Peyton?

Read Psalm 46:1–3, Psalm 55:22 and Nahum 1:7 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- What word is found in both Psalm 46:1–3 and Nahum 1:7? What does this word teach us about the character and nature of God, especially in relation to our suffering?
- The beginning of Psalm 55:22 says, “Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you.” Have you ever followed this command and received its blessing? If so, when?

After Violet leaves Charlie with Peyton, she hitchhikes to neighboring Ruckston and spends several days recovering at the local women’s shelter and clinic. While there, Violet spends time with an employee named Tilly, whose clinic experience has given her the wisdom to relate to women in need. With this wisdom, Tilly tells Violet about the importance of help and trust.



## THEME TWO: COMPASSION

**Guiding Scripture:** Galatians 6:2 (NLT): “Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.”

### SCENE TO REVIEW

*Help and Trust (00:47:00–00:48:31, Chapter 10)*

- What does the women’s shelter provide for Violet that she was unable to get on her own? Which aspects of Violet’s suffering does the shelter help alleviate?
- At what point does Tilly acknowledge – subtly – that she knows Violet’s true identity? Why does Tilly allow Violet to continue with the Ramona charade?
- How does Violet react to Tilly’s words about help and trust? Why do you think Violet is hesitant to accept help from Tilly at this point? To trust Tilly and take her at her word?
- Has there ever been a time in your life when someone offered to help bear your burden(s) and decrease your suffering? Did it require trust on your part? If so, what happened?

Read Proverbs 3:5–6, Philippians 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:7 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- How does Proverbs 3:5–6 correlate to Tilly’s words about help and trust going hand-in-hand? Why is it important to “lean not on [our] own understanding” when trusting God?
- What is the common theme found in Philippians 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:7? What encouragement do these verses offer for those who are suffering?

In concluding this theme discussion, take some time to read John 14:27, 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 and Hebrews 4:15–16 (see Scriptures Referenced). Consider the way these verses address the difficult reality of suffering, and think about any additional verses or passages from the Bible that offer encouragement to face and overcome adversity. Whether you’re discussing this theme in a group or using the guide for personal study, spend some time reflecting on moments in your life when you were able to surrender your burdens to the Lord and find rest in His presence.

### SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

- Proverbs 21:13 (NLT): “Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need.”
- Isaiah 1:17 (NIV): “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”
- Micah 6:8 (NIV): “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”
- Zechariah 7:9–10 (NIV): “This is what the Lord Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.’”
- Matthew 9:36 (NIV): “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
- Luke 6:36 (NIV): “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”
- 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (NIV): “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”
- 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT): “Three things will last forever – faith, hope, and love – and the greatest of these is love.”
- Galatians 6:2 (NLT): “Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.”
- Colossians 3:12 (NIV): “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”
- 1 John 4:7 (NLT): “Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.”



## SCENES TO REVIEW

- Painful Memories (00:27:54–00:29:42, Chapter 6)
- The King Solomon Dilemma (00:52:12–00:53:24, Chapter 11)
- Lunch Date (01:03:24–01:08:00, Chapter 13)
- An Informative Visit (01:08:01–01:09:44, Chapter 14)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

During the course of the film, Peyton's understanding of compassion is greatly challenged. At first, her desire to help Charlie's mother stems from another desire to help herself and bring closure to her painful past. Then, as she grows to love Charlie, her motivation for compassion is prompted by a fierce maternal instinct. And, finally, as she learns more about Violet's situation, Peyton's compassion is compelled by truth and love.

When King agrees to take Charlie, he is unaware of the intense feelings that the new arrangement evokes in Peyton. Because of her past – her father forcing Peyton to give up her child for adoption – she feels shame, not joy, when she looks at a baby. Instead of allowing the painful memory to paralyze her, though, Peyton channels her shame into conviction, and she determines to help the mother with whom she most certainly can empathize.

## SCENE TO REVIEW

*Painful Memories (00:27:54–00:29:42, Chapter 6)*

- What does Peyton's long-standing grief suggest about her pain in giving up a child? How has that decision impacted her, perhaps even unknowingly, over the years?
- When Peyton decides to use her feelings of shame and discomfort to help find the mother, do you sense that her motivations are pure? Does it matter? Why or why not?
- How does Peyton's personal experience make her uniquely qualified to show compassion to the mother in need? How does King react to Peyton's plan to help find the mother?
- What distinction does Peyton make between the sheriff's job and her job? Once she explains this distinction to King, why is it important that Peyton find the mother?

Read Zechariah 7:9–10, Matthew 9:36 and 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- How do Zechariah 7:9–10 and 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 relate to each other? What do these verses say about compassion and the motivation for compassion?
- How does Jesus model compassion in Matthew 9:36? What are some other verses or passages in which Jesus demonstrates compassion to those in need?

As Peyton's feelings for Charlie change, she wrestles with the idea of sending him back to his mother. Peyton's allegiances have shifted: before, she focused on finding and helping the mother; now, she struggles to keep her newly rediscovered maternal instincts at bay. One night, while sorting through her feelings,



she writes about King Solomon's famous court case, and she understands the sacrifice that either she or Charlie's mom will have to make. (For your reference, Solomon's story can be found in 1 Kings 3:16–28; feel free to read the passage from your Bible.)

## SCENE TO REVIEW

*The King Solomon Dilemma (00:52:12–00:53:24, Chapter 11)*

- How has Peyton's compassion evolved from the beginning of the film until this point?
- In your own words and interpretation, how would you describe what both Peyton and Violet might be feeling as mother figure and mother, respectively, to Charlie?
- What is Peyton's central struggle in this scene? How does that struggle relate to the story of King Solomon? Does that struggle affect Peyton's capacity for compassion?
- Does King Solomon demonstrate compassion in this story? Or, does he rely on the compassion of the true mother? What are your thoughts about his ruling?

Read Micah 6:8, Luke 6:36 and Colossians 3:12 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- The message of mercy is found in both Micah 6:8 and Luke 6:36. What is the relationship between mercy and compassion? How would you define those two terms?
- Colossians 3:12 gives the command to “clothe yourselves with compassion” among other godly characteristics. What do you think that means? Would that change you in any way?

In order for Violet to see Charlie, Peyton must agree to supervise the visits. During the first session, Peyton is initially detached from Violet, keeping an emotional distance from the young mother. But, eventually, Peyton is drawn to Violet's story, and she vows to learn all she can in order to help make the best decision for Charlie, for Violet, and for herself and King, too.



## THEME THREE: SECOND CHANCES

**Guiding Scripture:** Romans 5:8 (NIV): “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

### SCENES TO REVIEW

*Lunch Date (01:03:24–01:08:00, Chapter 13)*

*An Informative Visit (01:08:01–01:09:44, Chapter 14)*

- Why is Peyton so guarded with Violet at the beginning of the picnic? How do her words and actions (e.g., body language) convey a sense of cautious, forced distance?
- Peyton is a journalist and her investigative abilities definitely surface during the lunch. How does her natural inquisitiveness actually increase her compassion toward Violet?
- What does Peyton learn about Violet from visiting Violet’s mother? What kind of impression does Violet’s mother make on Peyton?
- After walking in Violet’s shoes, so to speak, how does Peyton’s increasing awareness of Violet’s painful history compel her to fight for the young woman?

Read Galatians 6:2 and 1 John 4:7  
(see Scriptures Referenced).

- When Peyton learns more about Violet, how is she following the command found in Galatians 6:2? What do others’ burdens teach us about compassion and love?
- In 1 John, the apostle John writes, “. . . let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God.” What is the relationship between love and compassion?

As you conclude this theme discussion, read Proverbs 21:13, Isaiah 1:17 and 1 Corinthians 13:13 (see Scriptures Referenced). Think about the biblical standard for compassion and consider other verses or passages that are applicable to this theme. Finally, take a moment to read the last words of the film, as narrated by Peyton: “We inspire one another not by the things we say, but by the things we do. . . . when we open our hearts to the most helpless among us.”

### SCRIPTURES REFERENCED

- Psalm 30:2 (NIV): “Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.”
- Psalm 130:3–4 (NLT): “Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive? But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you.”
- Isaiah 43:25 (NIV): “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”
- Matthew 5:44–45 (NLT): “But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.”
- Matthew 18:21–22 (NIV): “Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’”
- John 3:16–17 (NIV): “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”
- Romans 5:8 (NIV): “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- Romans 12:21 (NIV): “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”
- Ephesians 4:32 (NIV): “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
- Colossians 3:13 (NIV): “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”
- 1 John 1:8–9 (NLT): “If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”





## SCENES TO REVIEW

- Second Chances (00:37:50–00:40:50, Chapter 8)
- On the Boat (01:09:45–01:11:10, Chapter 14)
- Renewed Hearts (01:12:25–01:14:12, Chapter 15)
- A Reunion (01:18:54–01:25:04, Chapter 16)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

With faith in Jesus comes a deeper, more profound understanding of the beauty of second chances. Romans 5:8 (the Guiding Scripture for this theme) says, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Thank God for the ultimate second chance! And thank God for the many ways we can witness and experience second chances in our lives – through the power of love, reconciliation and forgiveness.

Peyton and King never expected to be parents . . . again. The thought was so removed from their plans that Peyton’s first emotions were shame and fear while King’s reaction was that he’d rather think about his retirement sailboat than a baby mobile. When Peyton shares that Charlie may be an indication of a different, divine appointment, King is on a completely different page – at first.

## SCENES TO REVIEW

*Second Chances (00:37:50–00:40:50, Chapter 8)*

*On the Boat (01:09:45–01:11:10, Chapter 14)*

- What would a second chance look like for King, specifically in relation to his experience with David, his son? What does he confide in Peyton that indicates some regret?

- What about Peyton? What would a second chance at motherhood look like for her? How would that change her life and potentially continue to heal the pain from her past?
- What Peyton proposes to King is a life-changing decision. How does he handle the revelation that Peyton would like another chance to be a mother?
- How does King’s interaction with Harry (Dale Wilson) in the second Scene to Review (*On the Boat*) soften King’s heart toward the possibility of raising children with Peyton?

Read Psalm 30:2, Isaiah 43:25 and Colossians 3:13 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- What do Psalm 30:2 and Isaiah 43:25 say about second chances? Have you received the gift of forgiveness of sin? If so, how does it feel to have a new perspective on life?
- Why is Colossians 3:13 a wonderful guideline for handling conflict? How does this verse apply to Peyton and King’s disagreement? In what ways is forgiveness a second chance?

The situation with Charlie offers everyone an opportunity for a second chance. For Peyton, Charlie has opened her heart to “so many possibilities.” For King, Charlie has given him the opportunity to know his wife’s heart – and his own – more intimately. For Violet, Charlie’s very life represents hope. And soon, Charlie may represent the key to his grandfather’s heart as well.







## SCENE TO REVIEW

*A Reunion (01:18:54–01:25:04, Chapter 16)*

- What is your reaction to the emotional scene between Violet and Hugh? How is their reunion a testimony to the power of forgiveness? To the power of reconciliation?
- What does Hugh tell Violet during his apology? Why is Hugh's message a great example of a repentant heart? What can we learn from the way he takes responsibility?
- What is restored to Violet and Hugh because they faced their pain? And now that they have acknowledged that pain, how might it influence their relationship for the better?
- How do Peyton and King resolve their differences regarding a future with children? Why is it important to work toward reconciliation with those we love?

Take a moment to read Psalm 130:3–4 and Matthew 18:21–22 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- How might Psalm 130:3–4 encourage us to make amends with those we may have hurt? What does this verse say about second chances?
- What is Jesus really telling Peter in Matthew 18:21–22? Is there a limit to how many times we should forgive those who hurt us? Even though it may not always be easy, how can we follow Christ's example to seek reconciliation where necessary in our lives?

As you finish this theme discussion, read Matthew 5:44–45, Romans 12:21 and Ephesians 4:32 (see Scriptures Referenced). The Bible contains our lifeline to understanding salvation, the ultimate second chance found in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you have not experienced the freedom of knowing that your sins are forgiven, will you consider the words of John 3:16–17 (see Scriptures Referenced) once more? And if you have accepted the gift of salvation, consider sharing an experience you've had in which God gave you a second chance.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

- Have you seen the first two films in the series (*The Note* and *The Note II: Taking a Chance on Love*)? If so, what did you think of this third installment?
- What do you think of the character of Dot? Why is she important to Peyton in particular and to the film in general? How does her legal background play a role in the film?
- The film highlights the work of women's shelters. Is there a shelter in or near your community? What are some ways that you, your church or your community could help?
- What other themes did you see in the film? Can you point to specific scenes?
- What does the film suggest about the practice of making plans? What is the balance between planning for the future and being open to surprises that may come our way?

## SCENE TO REVIEW

*Renewed Hearts (01:12:25–01:14:12, Chapter 15)*

- Is it possible that we experience second chances when we never even knew we needed them in the first place? Is that what happened with Peyton and King? Why or why not?
- Trace Peyton's journey through the course of the film. Where does she begin? Where does she end? How does she arrive at the ending? What lessons does she learn?
- Consider other characters, too, such as King, Violet, Dot and Hugh (Zach's father, played by Rob Morton). How does each of these characters grow and change?
- Can you relate to the power of second chances? Have you ever been given an unexpected opportunity to do something again? If so, would you share what happened in your life?

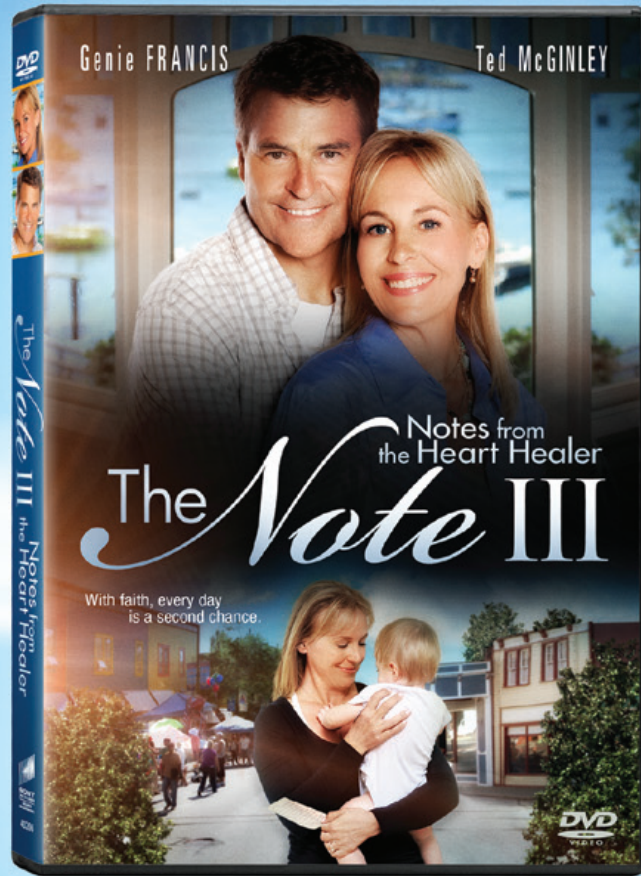
Read John 3:16–17 and 1 John 1:8–9 (see Scriptures Referenced).

- The passage from John is, perhaps, the most famous in the Bible. It is the crux of the gospel. How does salvation through Jesus Christ give us a second chance to live?
- How does 1 John 1:8–9 echo the message of John 3:16–17? Can you think of other verses that offer encouragement about forgiveness, second chances and new opportunities?

In one of the most moving scenes of the film, Peyton reunites Violet with her son's grandfather so that they all can begin the process of reconciliation. When Hugh finally has the opportunity to speak to Violet in person, he immediately extends a heartfelt apology for his past behavior. In what could be aptly described as a beauty-for-ashes moment, Violet and Hugh are reconciled.



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