

2026-10-14 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Themes: Rebuilding the Altar, Living Sacrifice, Worship, Surrender, and the Fire of God

Day 1: The Altar That Fell Into Disrepair

Reading: 1 Kings 18:30-35

Devotional: Elijah did not call fire from heaven before first repairing what had fallen apart. The altar of the Lord had not been destroyed by an enemy -- it had crumbled through neglect. The same can happen in the interior life of a believer. Prayerlessness, distraction, and the relentless pace of daily life can quietly erode what was once a place of genuine encounter with God. Before the fire falls, the stones must be gathered. Ask God today to show you where your altar needs rebuilding -- not out of condemnation, but out of invitation.

Reflection Questions:

What areas of your spiritual life have suffered from lack of use rather than outright rebellion?

What is one stone you can lay back into place today?

Practical Application: Set aside ten minutes this morning and ten minutes this evening as a deliberate act of presenting yourself before God. Let these bookend your day the way the morning and evening sacrifices bookended Israel's.

Day 2: A Living Sacrifice on a Rebuilt Altar

Reading: Romans 12:1-3

Devotional: Paul's appeal in Romans 12 is not a cold command -- it is a passionate urging rooted in the mercy of God displayed at the cross. The logic is straightforward: because Christ gave everything, we respond by offering everything. A living sacrifice, however, presents a unique challenge.

Unlike a slain animal, we can climb back down. The altar of surrender must be returned to daily. Conforming to the world happens gradually and quietly, but transformation through the renewing of the mind is equally available to those who choose it. Worship, rightly understood, is not confined to a song service -- it is a way of living.

Reflection Questions:

In what areas of your life have you been conforming rather than being transformed?

What does it look like practically for your body to be a living sacrifice today?

Practical Application: Before making any significant decision today, pause and ask: does this reflect a mind being renewed by God, or a mind being shaped by the surrounding culture? Let that question become a daily filter.

Day 3: Worshiping in Spirit and in Truth

Reading: John 4:7-26

Devotional: The woman at the well came to draw water and left having encountered the source of living water. Jesus did not overlook her sin, but neither did he lead with condemnation. He led with invitation. His declaration that true worshipers worship in spirit and in truth cuts through every external form of religion and asks a deeper question: is your heart actually engaged? It is possible to be physically present in worship while being spiritually absent. God is not seeking a performance -- he is seeking worshipers whose spirits are genuinely united with his Spirit in honest, truth-anchored adoration.

Reflection Questions:

When you worship, are you engaging your spirit or merely going through familiar motions?

What truth about God, if you genuinely believed it in the moment, would most transform the quality of your worship?

Practical Application: Before your next time of corporate or personal worship, read one passage about the character of God. Let what is true about him be the fuel that ignites your spirit before you sing or pray a single word.

Day 4: The God Who Answers by Fire

Reading: 1 Kings 18:36-39; Hebrews 11:6

Devotional: Elijah's prayer before the fire fell was remarkably brief. There was no performance, no lengthy formula, no desperation born of unbelief. He simply reminded God of his covenant, declared his own servanthood, and asked that the people would know the Lord is God. The fire that followed was thorough -- it consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the soil, and the water. When God responds, he responds completely. Hebrews 11:6 reminds us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Elijah's prayer was saturated with faith. The brevity was not laziness -- it was confidence in who God is.

Reflection Questions:

Do your prayers reflect genuine confidence in God, or are they filled with anxious repetition that reveals a deeper uncertainty?

What would you ask God for today if you truly believed he was both willing and able?

Practical Application: Write out one specific, faith-filled prayer request today. Keep it simple and direct. Then leave it with God rather than returning to it with worry. Trust that the God who answered by fire is still the same God.

Day 5: The Lamb Who Opened the Seal

Reading: Revelation 5:1-12; Isaiah 53:4-6

Devotional: At the center of heaven's throne room stands not a conquering warrior in gleaming armor, but a lamb bearing the marks of slaughter. This is the image Revelation gives us of Jesus -- the one whose brutal, sacrificial

death purchased the salvation of every person who has ever surrendered to him. The cross was not a tragedy that God redeemed. It was the plan by which God demonstrated the full weight of both his justice and his mercy simultaneously. When we take communion, when we bow in worship, when we place ourselves on the altar, we do so in response to a love that held nothing back.

Reflection Questions:

How often do you allow the reality of what Christ endured to genuinely move you, rather than treating it as familiar theological information?

What would change in your daily life if the image of the slaughtered lamb were the lens through which you made every decision?

Practical Application: Spend time today in slow, unhurried meditation on Isaiah 53:4-6, which describes the suffering servant who bore what we deserved. Let it move from your mind to your heart. Then respond -- not with words necessarily, but with a deliberate act of surrender in whatever area of your life you have been holding back from God.