

2026-10-21 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Day 1: Paying Attention to What God Is Doing

Reading: 1 Kings 18:38-40

Devotional: When God moves in unmistakable ways, the greatest danger is returning to business as usual. Ahab witnessed fire fall from heaven, 850 false prophets silenced, and the power of God on full display — and yet he walked away to eat and drink. How often do we do the same? God displays himself in our circumstances, in answered prayer, in the conviction of his Word, and we nod and move on. True faith pauses. It reflects. It asks, Lord, what are you saying to me? Do not let familiarity with God's goodness breed indifference toward it.

Personal Reflection: When was the last time God clearly moved in your life, and did you stop long enough to let it change you?

Practical Application: Set aside ten minutes today to write down one specific way God has shown himself faithful recently. Then pray and ask him what he wants you to do in response.

Day 2: Knowing the Voice of the True Shepherd

Reading: John 10:1-5, 14-16

Devotional: Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd whose sheep know his voice. In a world filled with competing voices — false teachers, cultural noise, and the enemy's deception — the ability to recognize the true shepherd's voice is not optional, it is survival. The more time you spend in the Word of God, the more familiar his voice becomes. Just as a trained eye recognizes counterfeit currency because it knows the real thing, a believer grounded in Scripture will recognize false teaching because it does not sound like the shepherd. Familiarity with truth is your greatest defense against deception.

Personal Reflection: Are you spending enough time in God's Word to confidently recognize when something contradicts it?

Practical Application: Read one chapter of the Gospel of John today with the specific intention of listening for what Jesus says about himself. Write down one statement he makes and carry it with you through the day.

Day 3: The Danger of False Prophets and Itching Ears

Reading: Deuteronomy 18:14-22; 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Devotional: Moses warned the people of Israel that the nations around them would turn to sorcery, divination, and false prophets for direction. God's command was clear: do not listen to them. The same warning echoes through Paul's letter to Timothy, where he describes a time when people will seek out teachers who say only what they want to hear. The human heart naturally gravitates toward comfort over conviction. But a faith built on pleasant words alone has no foundation when storms arrive. God raises up true voices to speak truth, and truth, even when it corrects, is an act of love.

Personal Reflection: Are there areas of your life where you have been more comfortable listening to what you want to hear rather than what God is actually saying?

Practical Application: Ask a trusted, spiritually mature believer to speak honestly into one area of your life where you may have a blind spot. Receive it with humility and bring it before God in prayer.

Day 4: Repentance That Goes All the Way Home

Reading: Luke 15:11-24

Devotional: The prodigal son did not simply feel bad about his choices — he got up and made the journey home. Real repentance is not just emotion; it is movement. It is turning away from the far country and walking, however

humbly, back toward the Father. The son expected to be received as a servant, not a son. Instead, he was met with a robe, a ring, and a celebration. This is the heart of God toward every person who genuinely turns back to him. No sin has placed you so far away that his grace cannot meet you on the road. The Father is watching and waiting.

Personal Reflection: Is there an area of your life where you have been feeling conviction but have not yet taken the step of turning back?

Practical Application: Spend time in honest prayer today, naming before God anything you have been excusing or carrying. Receive the forgiveness described in 1 John 1:9, where God promises to forgive and cleanse those who confess their sins to him.

Day 5: Guarding Your Words and Protecting Your Brothers

Reading: Deuteronomy 19:15-19; James 3:3-10

Devotional: God takes the words we speak about one another with profound seriousness. The law required two or three witnesses before any accusation could stand, protecting the innocent from the damage of a single careless or malicious tongue. James reminds us that the same tongue that praises God can destroy a person made in God's image. The church is meant to be a place of refuge, not a place where character is quietly dismantled through gossip and assumption. Every time we choose to withhold an unverified accusation, to ask whether we truly know what we think we know, we protect the unity that Christ died to establish.

Personal Reflection: Have you recently passed along information about another person that you did not personally witness and could not verify with multiple sources?

Practical Application: Make a specific commitment this week that when someone begins to share negative information about another person, you will gently ask whether they witnessed it directly and whether others can confirm it. Choose to protect people with your words rather than expose them.