2026-11-15 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Themes: The Living Word, Baptism, Salvation, Discipleship, and Gratitude

Day 1: The Word That Does Not Pass Away

Reading: Matthew 24:35; John 1:1-14; Hebrews 4:12

Devotional: Scripture does not merely contain words about God -- it is, in a profound sense, God speaking directly to you. John 1 reveals that Jesus himself is the Word made flesh, the same Word present at creation, the same Word that holds all things together. When you open your Bible, you are not completing a religious obligation. You are encountering a living person. The writer of Hebrews describes this Word as sharper than any double-edged sword, capable of reaching places inside you that nothing else can touch. Ask yourself honestly: do you approach Scripture as a duty to endure, or as a discovery to pursue? Jesus said heaven and earth will disappear, but his words will stand forever. Whatever else you are holding onto in this season of life, hold tighter to what will last.

Personal Reflection: What area of your life have you been relying on your own understanding rather than allowing the Word of God to speak into it?

Practical Application: Choose one passage of Scripture this week and read it slowly, not to finish it, but to sit with it. Ask God to show you something you have never seen before.

Day 2: Dying to Live -- The Meaning of Baptism

Reading: Matthew 3:13-17; Romans 6:1-11; Colossians 2:12

Devotional: When Jesus traveled from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John, he did not go because he needed to be cleansed of sin. He went because it was, in his own words, the proper thing to do. He submitted

himself to another's hands, was plunged beneath the water, and rose again -- a picture that Paul would later make explicit in Romans 6, where he describes baptism as a burial and a resurrection. To be baptized is to declare publicly that the old self has died and that a new life, rooted entirely in Christ, has begun. It is not a performance for others. It is a surrender to God. The question worth sitting with today is not merely whether you have been baptized, but whether you have truly died to yourself.

Personal Reflection: Is there an area of your old self -- an old habit, an old identity, an old fear -- that you have not yet surrendered to Christ?

Practical Application: Write down one thing you are holding onto that belongs to your old life. Pray specifically and honestly that God would help you release it and walk in newness.

Day 3: The Call That Breaks You Open

Reading: Acts 2:37-41; Luke 15:17-21; 2 Corinthians 7:10

Devotional: Genuine salvation is not a transaction you initiate. It is a call God places on a heart that has finally become honest with itself. In Acts 2, the crowd was cut to the heart -- not persuaded by clever argument, not moved by an emotional performance, but broken open by the truth of who Jesus is and what their own lives had been apart from him. That brokenness is not the end of the story. It is the beginning. The prodigal son in Luke 15 came to his senses in the middle of a pigpen. He did not clean himself up before returning. He returned precisely because he knew he could not clean himself up. If you find yourself today with a sense that something is not right between you and God, that discomfort is not your enemy. It is an invitation.

Personal Reflection: When you think about your own salvation, do you remember a moment of genuine brokenness, or has faith mostly felt like a comfortable habit?

Practical Application: Spend time today in honest prayer, not asking for anything, but simply telling God the truth about where you are. No

performance, no polish -- just honesty.

Day 4: Disciples Who Share What They Have Found

Reading: Mark 5:18-20; John 4:28-30; 2 Timothy 2:2

Devotional: A disciple is not simply someone who follows. A disciple follows in order to learn, and learns in order to pass on what has been received. Jesus modeled this with twelve ordinary men, and those men turned the world upside down not because they had seminary degrees but because they had been with Jesus and had something real to share. You will talk enthusiastically about a good restaurant, a useful product, or a film that moved you. The man Jesus healed in Mark 5 went home and told everyone what God had done for him. The woman at the well in John 4 left her water jar behind and ran to tell her neighbors. The most natural form of evangelism is not a rehearsed speech -- it is telling someone what God has done in your life this week.

Personal Reflection: When was the last time you told someone, outside the walls of a church, what God has been doing in your life?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life who does not know Christ. This week, find a natural moment to tell them not what they should believe, but what God has meant to you personally.

Day 5: Gratitude as a Way of Life

Reading: Psalm 100:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philippians 4:6-7

Devotional: Gratitude is not a seasonal sentiment reserved for holidays. It is the natural overflow of a heart that has genuinely encountered grace. Psalm 100 calls us to enter God's presence with thanksgiving and his courts with praise -- not because things are always going well, but because he is good and his faithfulness endures across every generation. Paul, writing from a prison cell, instructs believers to give thanks in all circumstances. Not for all circumstances, but in them. The distinction matters. You are not required to

be grateful for suffering. You are invited to find God present within it. As this week closes, consider what you have been taking for granted -- health, community, the Word itself -- and let thanksgiving become not a moment, but a posture.

Personal Reflection: What is one thing you have been treating as ordinary that is actually a gift from God?

Practical Application: Begin each morning this week by naming three specific things you are grateful for before you look at your phone, check the news, or speak to anyone. Let gratitude be the first voice of your day.