2026-10-25 Devotional

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Themes: Faith, Divine Presence, Courage, the Heart, and Delight in God

Day 1: Present in Body, Present in Spirit

Reading: Matthew 14:22-27

Devotional: It is possible to be physically present and spiritually absent. The disciples were in the boat, but their hearts were far from understanding who was walking toward them. Jesus met their fear with immediate reassurance, declaring his identity and calling them toward courage. The word "take courage" implies that courage is something available to be received, not manufactured on your own. Before you move through this day, ask yourself whether you are truly present with God or simply going through the motions. Discipline your attention. God is speaking. The question is whether you are truly listening.

Reflection Question: Where in your daily life are you physically present but spiritually checked out?

Practical Application: Set aside ten uninterrupted minutes today to sit quietly before God, laying aside your burdens and asking him to speak to you specifically.

Day 2: Getting Out of the Boat

Reading: Matthew 14:28-33

Devotional: Peter's request to walk on water was not reckless foolishness. It was bold faith. He saw Jesus and wanted to go to him, even through a storm. He stepped out, and for a moment, the impossible became his reality. The trouble came not when he stepped out but when he shifted his gaze from Jesus to the wind. The wind was real. The storm was real. But so was

the one standing on the water. Whatever storm surrounds you today, the invitation remains the same. Jesus says come. The boat feels safer, but safety was never the goal. Obedience and trust are.

Reflection Question: What storm in your life is causing you to sink because you are watching the wind instead of watching Jesus?

Practical Application: Identify one area where fear has kept you in the boat. Write it down and pray specifically over it, asking God for the faith to step out.

Day 3: The Danger of a Hard Heart

Reading: Mark 6:45-52 and Jeremiah 17:9-10

Devotional: Mark records something striking after the disciples witnessed Jesus walk on water. They were amazed, but they had not understood about the loaves. Their hearts were hardened. They had seen a miracle and still could not connect the dots. A hard heart is not always the result of rebellion. Sometimes it grows quietly through unresolved fear, unforgiveness, or a refusal to let God stretch your understanding of who he is. Jeremiah reminds us that God searches the heart and examines the mind. He sees what we hide. He also heals what we surrender. The cure for a hard heart begins with honest acknowledgment before God.

Reflection Question: Is there an area of your life where you have witnessed God's faithfulness but still refuse to trust him fully?

Practical Application: Ask God to reveal any hardness in your heart. Spend time in honest confession, and ask him to replace that hardness with a heart that is responsive and teachable.

Day 4: Why Are You Really Following?

Reading: John 6:22-29

Devotional: When the crowd found Jesus on the other side of the lake, he did not celebrate their persistence. He called out their motive. They were not seeking him because of who he was. They were seeking him because of what he had provided. It is a sobering question to sit with: why do you follow Jesus? If your faith is built primarily around what God can do for you rather than who God is, it will not hold when the bread runs out. Jesus pointed them toward work that truly lasts, believing in the one whom God has sent. Genuine faith seeks the Giver, not merely the gifts.

Reflection Question: If God never answered another prayer the way you hoped, would you still follow him?

Practical Application: Examine your prayer life this week. Notice whether your prayers are primarily requests or whether they also include worship, surrender, and listening. Intentionally shift the balance toward seeking God himself.

Day 5: Delighting in God and the Desires He Gives

Reading: Psalm 37:1-7 and 2 Peter 1:3-8

Devotional: David's promise in Psalm 37 is frequently quoted but rarely understood in its full depth. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. This is not a blank check for personal ambition. It is a promise of transformation. When you genuinely delight in God, he reshapes your desires to align with his own. Peter echoes this in his letter, urging believers to add to their faith goodness, knowledge, perseverance, and love. Faith is not static. It grows or it hardens. The same Peter who sank in the water later wrote with clarity about the divine power that gives us everything we need for a godly life. That power is available to you today. The life God calls you to is one you cannot live without him, and that is precisely the point.

Reflection Question: How have your desires changed since you began following Jesus? What does that reveal about the depth of your delight in him?

Practical Application: Read Psalm 34 in full as a closing act of worship this week. Let its promises renew your confidence in a God who is near to the brokenhearted and who rewards those who earnestly seek him.