

2026-07-22 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Themes: Surrender, Faith Over Fear, Obedience, Discernment, and Divine Providence

Day 1: A Heart Surrendered to God

Reading: 2 Chronicles 17:3-6

In this passage, the chronicler describes how Jehoshaphat walked in the ways of God rather than pursuing his own ambitions. His heart was not divided. The sermon reminds us that God is not looking for perfect people but for surrendered ones. Too often we bog ourselves down trying simply to be better, wondering why we feel unfulfilled. Fulfillment does not come from self-improvement alone. It comes when we are genuinely living for God, wanting others to be blessed by Him. Ask yourself today: whose agenda am I actually following, mine or His?

Reflection Questions:

In what areas of your life are you still holding the reins rather than surrendering them to God?

What would it look like practically for your desires to shift from being for yourself to being for Him?

Practical Application: Set aside ten minutes today to sit quietly and ask God to reveal one area where self-interest has crowded out surrender. Write it down and pray specifically over it.

Day 2: Crying Out in the Moment of Fear

Reading: Psalm 34:4-7

The psalmist describes seeking the Lord and being delivered from all his fears. In the sermon, the story of Jehoshaphat surrounded by enemy chariots illustrates this truth vividly. When the charioteers bore down on

him, Jehoshaphat cried out, and the Lord helped him. The sermon draws a direct and honest observation: God never promised there would be nothing to fear. He simply said do not stay afraid. Fear will present itself. The question is what you do with it in that moment. Do you spiral into worst-case thinking, or do you cry out to the One who is bigger than anything closing in on you?

Reflection Questions:

What fear are you currently allowing to run like a runaway wagon train in your mind?

Have you genuinely cried out to God about it, or have you been managing it on your own?

Practical Application: The next time fear rises today, stop immediately and speak aloud: "God, you already know this situation. You are not unaware. I trust you with it." Practice interrupting the spiral before it gains momentum.

Day 3: Faith That Does Not Bend to Pressure

Reading: Jeremiah 1:17-19

God's charge to Jeremiah was to stand firm and speak what He commanded, regardless of who pushed back. The prophet Micaiah in the sermon stands as a powerful example of this same courage. Surrounded by 450 prophets saying what the king wanted to hear, Micaiah refused to bend. His boldness did not come from his own strength or personality. It came from the certainty that God had spoken and that fearing God mattered infinitely more than fearing any king. The sermon puts it plainly: he feared God more than he feared man. That is the foundation of genuine spiritual courage.

Reflection Questions:

Is there a situation in your life right now where you know what God is asking but the social or relational cost feels too high?

What would it mean for you to fear God more than you fear the opinion of the people around you?

Practical Application: Identify one moment this week where you softened or withheld something God was prompting you to say or do. Bring it before God in prayer and ask Him for the specific courage to follow through.

Day 4: The Providence of a God Who Moves Pieces

Reading: Proverbs 16:9 and Romans 13:1

Both passages point to the same reality: human beings make plans, but God is the one directing outcomes. The sermon draws attention to the seemingly random arrow that struck King Ahab between the joints of his armor. No soldier aimed it with precision. No general ordered it. Yet it found its mark exactly when God determined time was up. The sermon asks a piercing question: do we really believe God is large and in charge? Not just in theory, not just in the pleasant moments, but when circumstances look random, painful, or completely out of our control?

Reflection Questions:

Can you look back on a moment in your life that seemed like coincidence but now looks like the hand of God?

Where are you currently tempted to believe that things have simply spun out of God's awareness or control?

Practical Application: Write down one situation in your life that feels chaotic or unresolved. Beneath it, write this statement: "God is not unaware of this, and He is not without a plan." Return to it each morning this week.

Day 5: Discernment, Correction, and the Grace to Listen

Reading: 1 John 4:1 and Proverbs 19:20

The closing portion of the sermon addresses one of the most overlooked

disciplines in the Christian life: discernment. When the seer confronted Jehoshaphat upon his return, the sermon raises an important caution. Not every word spoken in a spiritual tone carries the authority of God behind it. People speak from their own hearts, sometimes even well-meaning people. Learning to distinguish between what comes from God and what comes from human opinion requires the discipline of prayer, reflection, and honest time spent in the Word. The sermon also acknowledges the opposite failure, ignoring correction that genuinely does come from God.

Reflection Questions:

Is there a word of correction you have received recently, from a person or from Scripture, that you have not yet brought before God in honest prayer? Are you more prone to dismiss correction too quickly or to absorb it too uncritically without seeking God's confirmation?

Practical Application: The next time someone speaks a challenging word into your life, resist the urge to react immediately in either direction. Instead, pray this simple prayer: "God, is there something from you in this? Show me what to receive and what to release."

This reading plan is designed to be used alongside personal prayer and honest reflection. The goal is not simply to gather information but to allow God's Word to do what it has always done: search the heart, redirect the will, and build the kind of faith that does not collapse when life gets hard.