

2026-07-26 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Series: Tug of War

Day 1: Who Is Your Authority?

Reading: Joshua 24:14-15

Devotional: Every day presents a quiet but serious question: who or what is actually in charge of your life? Joshua stood before an entire nation and demanded an answer. He did not allow the people to stay comfortable in their indecision. He named the choice plainly and then declared where he stood. The tug of war in your soul is not resolved by good intentions. It is resolved by a settled decision. When God is named as the authority over your home, your habits, and your heart, the pulling and straining begins to give way to something better: movement in one clear direction, together with God rather than against Him.

Personal Reflection: What area of your life have you been most reluctant to place under God's authority? What would it look like to surrender that today?

Practical Application: Write down one specific decision you have been avoiding or delaying. Bring it before God in prayer and ask Him to be the authority over that choice.

Day 2: The Kindness That Leads to Repentance

Reading: Romans 2:4

In this passage, Paul reminds believers that it is the goodness and kindness of God, not His severity, that draws human hearts toward genuine repentance and change.

Devotional: It is easy to approach God as though He is keeping score, tallying every failure and waiting for the right moment to settle accounts.

But the Scripture tells a different story. God's kindness is not a reward for good behavior. It is the very thing He uses to draw wandering hearts back to Himself. When you begin to notice the provisions, the near misses, the quiet mercies woven through an ordinary Tuesday, something shifts inside you. Gratitude replaces guilt as the primary engine of your faith. You stop running from God and start running toward Him, not because you have to, but because His kindness has undone you.

Personal Reflection: Can you identify a moment in the past week where God showed you kindness you did not earn? How did you respond to it?

Practical Application: Before you ask God for anything today, spend five minutes thanking Him specifically for what He has already done. Name each thing out loud.

Day 3: A Faith That Astonishes

Reading: Matthew 8:5-10

In this account, a Roman military officer approaches Jesus on behalf of his suffering servant. He expresses confidence that Jesus need only speak a word, and healing will come, because he understands how authority works from his own experience of command.

Devotional: The centurion did not ask Jesus to come to his house. He did not need a sign or a demonstration. He simply understood authority. He knew that when the right person speaks, things happen. Jesus called this great faith, and He marveled at it. The question worth sitting with is this: do you actually believe that Jesus only needs to speak a word over your situation? Or do you secretly require a more elaborate process before you will trust Him? Faith is not the absence of a hard situation. It is the settled confidence that the One who spoke the world into existence has not gone silent and has not lost His authority over your circumstances.

Personal Reflection: What situation in your life right now requires you to trust the authority of Jesus without seeing the outcome first?

Practical Application: Identify one fear or worry you have been carrying. Pray specifically and ask Jesus to speak His word over it, then practice releasing it back to Him each time it returns to your mind throughout the day.

Day 4: Choosing in the Middle of the Noise

Reading: 1 Kings 18:21

Here, the prophet Elijah confronts the people of Israel with a pointed question about their divided loyalty, challenging them to stop wavering between two positions and make a definitive choice about who they believe God to be.

Devotional: Elijah's question has never aged. How long will you waver between two opinions? The people of Israel did not answer him, and their silence said everything. Indecision is its own kind of decision. When life is loud with notifications, obligations, and opinions coming from every direction, the soul that has not settled the question of God's authority will be tossed endlessly. But a made-up mind is a different thing entirely. It does not mean life becomes easy. It means you have a fixed point to return to when the storm hits. Knowing who God is and choosing to follow Him does not eliminate difficulty. It eliminates the exhausting work of starting over every time things get hard.

Personal Reflection: In what area of your spiritual life have you been most like the silent crowd, unwilling to fully commit in either direction?

Practical Application: Write down the statement "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" and place it somewhere visible in your home. Let it serve as a daily reminder of the choice you are making.

Day 5: The Authority That Covers You

Reading: Mark 1:21-27

In this passage, Jesus is teaching in a synagogue when a man with an evil spirit cries out. Jesus rebukes the spirit with a direct command, and the spirit obeys immediately. Those present are stunned, recognizing that His teaching and His power both carry a unique and unmistakable authority.

Devotional: The people in that synagogue came expecting a lesson. They received something far larger. They watched authority in action, not authority that debated or negotiated, but authority that simply spoke and was obeyed. The demonic world knew exactly who Jesus was before most of the religious world did. That ought to stop you for a moment. If forces of darkness recognize His authority, what does it mean for those who choose to live under it? It means you are covered. It means the things that come against you must first pass through the One who commands them with a word. Submitting to the authority of Jesus is not weakness. It is the wisest and most protected place you can possibly stand.

Personal Reflection: Are there areas of your life where you have been trying to handle spiritual battles on your own rather than standing under the authority of Jesus?

Practical Application: Pray through your home, your relationships, and your daily schedule today. Specifically invite the authority of Jesus into each area and ask Him to speak into anything that does not belong.

This reading plan is designed to be used in sequence over five consecutive days, though each day also stands on its own. Return to any day as often as needed. The goal is not information but transformation, one surrendered choice at a time.