

## 2026-08-16 5 Day Devotional

### 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Themes: Faith, Spiritual Authority, Deliverance, Divine Presence, and Bold Witness

#### Day 1: He Is in the Boat

Reading: Mark 4:35-41

Devotional: The disciples were experienced fishermen, yet the storm reduced them to terror. What undid them was not the wind but the assumption that Jesus was indifferent to their danger. He was not. He was present, and his presence was sufficient. The same Christ who commanded the wind to cease is present in your most disorienting circumstances today. The question he asked the disciples is worth sitting with personally: do you still have no faith? Faith is not the absence of fear. It is the decision to trust the one who holds authority over everything that frightens you.

Reflection: What storm in your life are you trying to manage without fully trusting Christ's authority over it?

Practical Application: Write down one specific fear you are carrying. Pray over it directly, surrendering control to Christ and asking him to replace your anxiety with confidence in his presence.

#### Day 2: The Authority That Silences Chaos

Reading: Job 38:1-18

Devotional: God's response to Job's complaints was not an explanation but a revelation of his incomprehensible authority over creation. He asks Job who controls the rain, the wind, the snow, and the sea. The answer, of course, is God alone. This same God calmed the sea at a word in Mark 4. When life feels chaotic and you begin to wonder whether God is aware, return to this passage. He is not scrambling to respond to your situation. He is the one who

set the boundaries of the ocean itself. Your circumstances have not exceeded his reach.

Reflection: In what area of life have you been acting as though God's authority has limits?

Practical Application: Read Job 38 slowly and pause after each question God poses. Allow the weight of his sovereignty to recalibrate your perspective before you begin your day.

Day 3: When the Enemy Has a Name

Reading: Mark 5:1-13 and Ephesians 6:10-12

Devotional: The man in the tombs was not merely troubled. He was bound, isolated, self-destructive, and beyond human remedy. Yet when he encountered Jesus, the demonic forces that had dominated him immediately recognized their superior. They begged. They negotiated. They obeyed. This passage does not call believers to fear the demonic world, but it does call them to be aware that spiritual opposition is real and that Christ's authority over it is total. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6 that our struggle is not against flesh and blood. Awareness of this truth is not cause for alarm. It is cause for dependence on Christ.

Reflection: Are there patterns in your life that feel beyond your ability to simply decide against? Have you brought those patterns before Christ in honest prayer?

Practical Application: Ask God today to help you conduct an honest spiritual inventory. Identify one area where something other than the Holy Spirit seems to have consistent influence over your choices, and bring it to God in specific prayer.

Day 4: Delivered to Tell

Reading: Mark 5:14-20 and Romans 10:14-15

Devotional: The restored man wanted to stay close to Jesus, and who could blame him? He had been brought from ruin to wholeness in a single encounter. But Jesus sent him home. Not away from ministry, but directly into it. His family, his community, and eventually the entire region of the Decapolis heard what God had done for him. His testimony was his assignment. The same is true for every person Christ has delivered. You may not feel qualified to teach theology, but you are fully qualified to describe what the Lord has done for you. That testimony carries weight that no argument can replicate.

Reflection: Who in your family or immediate community has never heard what Christ has done in your life?

Practical Application: This week, tell one person a specific and honest account of how Christ has changed something in you. Do not wait until you feel ready. Readiness comes through obedience.

Day 5: Filled So There Is No Room

Reading: Ephesians 5:15-21 and Luke 11:24-26

Devotional: Jesus warned that when an unclean spirit is driven out but finds no replacement, it returns with reinforcements. The warning is sobering. Deliverance alone is not the destination. Being filled with the Spirit of God is. Paul's instruction to be filled with the Spirit is not a one-time event but a continuous posture of surrender and invitation. A life filled with worship, gratitude, Scripture, and community leaves diminishing room for what seeks to reclaim it. The goal is not simply to remove what is harmful but to be so thoroughly inhabited by the presence of God that there is no vacancy remaining.

Reflection: What practices in your daily life actively invite the Holy Spirit's presence and influence? What practices crowd him out?

Practical Application: Choose one concrete spiritual discipline, whether

Scripture reading, prayer, worship, or fellowship, and commit to practicing it consistently for the next thirty days. Begin today.