

2026-09-23 5 Day Devotional

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on Themes from 1 Kings 17 and the Sovereignty of God in Suffering

Day 1: The Faith to Give First

Reading: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Devotional: The widow of Zarephath had almost nothing left. Yet when Elijah asked her to give first, she obeyed. Her act of faith was not born from abundance but from trust. God does not wait until we are comfortable before asking us to plant a seed. He asks us to plant precisely when the ground looks barren. Whether it is our time, our resources, our witness, or our comfort, giving first is an act of surrender that opens the door for God to work. What is God asking you to give today that feels like all you have left?

Day 2: When God Seems Unfair

Reading: 1 Kings 17:17-18; John 9:1-7

Devotional: When the widow's son died, her first instinct was to assign blame. It felt like punishment. It felt personal. We do the same thing. When hardship arrives after a season of blessing, we assume God has turned against us. But Jesus corrected this kind of thinking clearly when His disciples asked who had sinned to cause a man's blindness. Sometimes suffering is not a verdict. Sometimes it is a stage on which God intends to display His glory. Before you conclude that God is against you, ask instead what He may be doing through you.

Day 3: The Cry That God Hears

Reading: 1 Kings 17:19-22; James 5:13-18

Devotional: Elijah did not have a formula. He had a desperate cry and a God who listens. He stretched himself out on the boy three times, not because it was a proven method, but because he refused to stop seeking God. James

reminds us that Elijah was a man just like us, and yet God heard him. This is one of the most encouraging truths in all of Scripture. You do not need perfect words. You do not need a flawless record. You need to cry out to the God who bends down to listen. He has not stopped hearing.

Day 4: Grace That Is More Than Enough

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Romans 8:18

Devotional: Paul begged God three times to remove his suffering. God said no, and then gave him something better than relief. He gave him grace. Not a small, barely-sufficient grace, but an overflowing, more-than-enough grace that Paul discovered only in the middle of his weakness. The thorn was never removed, but Paul's perspective was transformed. He stopped fighting his weakness and started boasting in it because weakness became the place where God's power was most visible. Whatever you are carrying today that God has not taken away, ask Him to make it the very place where His strength is most clearly seen in your life.

Day 5: Fixing Your Eyes on the Mission

Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3; John 11:4, 40-44

Devotional: Jesus endured the cross by fixing His eyes not on the pain but on what was on the other side of it. Lazarus lay in the tomb while Jesus delayed, and those who loved Lazarus could not understand why. But God was not absent. He was positioning Himself for a moment of undeniable glory. The same is true in your life. The delay is not abandonment. The suffering is not the final word. Like Elijah, like Paul, like the widow who nearly starved, you are being invited to trust that God sees further than you do and that He is working even now. Keep your eyes on Him.