Rooted and Growing Deep: Service

5-Day Devotional



Day 1: Welcomed by Jesus

Reading: Romans 15:7

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Devotional:

Before we could welcome others, Jesus first welcomed us. He invited us into the family of faith with grace, mercy, and love. We did not earn our place with Him; we were received by Him.

Because Christ has welcomed us, we are called to welcome others. This is more than being friendly. It means helping people feel at home, making space for them, and treating them with the same grace God has shown us.

The way we treat others matters deeply to God. Our worship is connected to our relationships. If we want to draw near to the heart of God, we begin by receiving His welcome and extending that same welcome to others.

Day 2: Worship That Reaches the Heart

Reading: Amos 5:24

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Devotional:

God desires more than empty religious ritual. He is not impressed by worship that is disconnected from mercy, kindness, and justice. True worship reaches beyond songs, prayers, and church attendance. It shows up in the way we treat people.

Jesus reminded His hearers of this truth when He said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." God cares about the condition of our hearts and the way our faith is lived out in daily life.

Worship is sincere when it leads us to love others well. If we sing praises to God but ignore the needs around us, we miss part of what worship is meant to be. To worship in spirit and truth is to offer God not only our words, but also our lives.

Day 3: Learning That Leads Somewhere

Reading: Luke 24:32

They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Devotional:

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus opened the Scriptures to two discouraged disciples. Their sorrow turned to joy as they began to understand God's promises more clearly. Learning God's Word gave them hope and stability in an uncertain moment.

The same is true for us. Scripture gives us a place to stand when life feels unstable. God's promises strengthen us, guide us, and remind us that He is faithful.

But learning is not meant to stop with knowledge. We do not study Scripture simply to become smarter. We learn so that our hearts are shaped more like Jesus. True learning leads us to trust God more deeply and serve others more faithfully.

Day 4: The God Who Serves

Reading: John 13:14–15

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Devotional:

On the night before His death, Jesus took the lowest place in the room. He washed His disciples' feet. This was shocking because foot washing was the work of a servant, not a teacher, leader, or Lord.

Peter struggled to accept it because he understood the scandal of the moment. But Jesus was teaching something essential: we have a God who serves. The cross would soon become the greatest act of service the world has ever known.

Jesus never asks us to do something He is unwilling to do Himself. He serves first, then invites us to follow His example. If we want to be near to the heart of God, we must be willing to take up the towel and serve others with humility.

Day 5: Greatness Through Service

Reading: Mark 10:43–45

Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Devotional:

The world often defines greatness by power, position, and privilege. Jesus defines it differently. In His kingdom, greatness is found in service.

James and John wanted places of honor beside Jesus. They were thinking about status, but Jesus pointed them toward sacrifice. He reminded His disciples that He did not come to be served, but to serve.

Service breaks us out of self-centered living. It shifts our attention away from "me" and opens our eyes to the needs of others. When we serve, we reflect the heart of Christ.

Jesus does not need us to be more important. He calls us to be more loving. He does not simply want us to know more. He wants us to become kinder, humbler, and more willing to serve. That is the path that leads us closer to the heart of God.