

Rooted and Growing Deep: Worship

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: Created for Connection

Reading: Genesis 1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

*So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Adam and Eve

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said,

*“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”*

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Devotional: Before sin, before shame, before hiding — there was simply God and humanity walking together. The Garden of Eden was not merely a location; it was a living temple, a place of unbroken connection between Creator and creation. God never designed worship to be a once-a-week obligation. It was meant to be the very atmosphere of daily life. Consider what it would mean to carry that awareness with you today — that you are never outside the reach of God’s presence. What would change if you treated every moment as sacred ground?

Day 2: Stop Hiding, Start Returning

Reading: Genesis 3

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

*“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!*

*You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.*

*And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;*

*he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”*

To the woman he said,

*“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;
with painful labor you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you.”*

*To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I
commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’*

*“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.*

*It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.*

*By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”*

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

*The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. And the Lord God
said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to
reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So the Lord God
banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he
drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming
sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Psalm 32

*Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.*

*When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.*

*For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.*

*Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, “I will confess
my transgressions to the Lord.”*

*And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.*

*Therefore let all the faithful pray to you
while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.*

*You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.*

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*

*Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.*

*Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the Lord's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.*

*Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!*

Devotional: Adam and Eve did not lose God's love when they sinned. They lost their willingness to stand in it. Shame told them to hide, to deflect, to blame. That same instinct lives in us. We point fingers, minimize our failures, and keep God at a comfortable distance rather than returning in honesty and vulnerability. Psalm 32 describes the weight of unconfessed sin and the relief that follows when we stop hiding. God is not waiting to condemn you. God is waiting to restore you. Bring your full self today — the broken parts included.

Day 3: When Worship Becomes Empty

Reading: Amos 5:21-24

*"I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.
²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.
²³ Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!"*

Isaiah 58:6-7

*"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?"*

*Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?*

Devotional: The prophet Amos delivered a devastating word to people who were faithful in their religious rituals but exploitative in their daily lives. Their songs, offerings, and festivals had become a cover for injustice rather than a response to God. Isaiah echoes the same call — that true worship is expressed in how we treat the vulnerable around us. God is not impressed by religious performance disconnected from compassionate living. Worship that does not change how we treat people is incomplete. Ask yourself today: does my faith show up in my relationships, my choices, and my response to those in need?

Day 4: All Creation Praises

Reading: Psalm 148

Praise the Lord.

*Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.*

*Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.*

*Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.*

*Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.*

*Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at his command they were created,
and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.*

*Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,*

*kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,
young men and women,
old men and children.*

*Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.
And he has raised up for his people a horn,*

*the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.*

Romans 8:19-22

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Devotional: Psalm 148 calls every corner of creation into worship — ocean depths, mountain peaks, storms, animals, and people of every age. Nothing is excluded. Romans 8 reminds us that creation itself longs for restoration, groaning toward the day when all things are made right. Worship, then, is not a human invention. It is the native language of everything God made. When you step outside and notice the rain falling or a rainbow stretching across the sky, you are witnessing creation doing exactly what it was made to do. Today, let the world around you draw your heart toward praise.

Day 5: Community, Vulnerability, and the Long Walk Home

Reading: Micah 6:8; Hebrews 10:24-25

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.*

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Devotional: No one finds their way back to God entirely alone. Zach Ibrahim needed a friend before he could dismantle a lifetime of learned hatred. The woman who had witnessed corruption in the church needed a faithful community before she could trust again. Hebrews calls us not to abandon gathering together, because we need one another to stir up love and good works. Micah reminds us that the life God calls us to is not complicated — act justly, love mercy, walk humbly. That walk is easier when we walk it together. Who in your community needs you to show up today?