



5-Day Devotional: Bridging the Gap - Connecting and Engaging Pt.2

Day 1: From Connection to Companionship

Reading: Matthew 28:18-20

Devotional: Jesus didn't just command us to announce the gospel—He called us to accompany people on their journey. The Great Commission isn't a single conversation; it's a lifelong commitment to walk alongside others until Christ is formed in them. Like a redwood tree that requires consistent rain and nutrients to grow from seed to towering giant, disciples are formed through steady presence, opened Bibles, and opened calendars. Today, ask yourself: Am I just making contacts, or am I making disciples? The difference lies in moving from "nice to meet you" to "let's walk together until Christ is formed in both of us." Discipleship happens as you are going—woven into your daily life, not reserved for special events.

Reflection Question: Who is one person God is calling you to move beyond surface-level connection with this week?

Day 2: The Power of Presence

Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Devotional: We live in a world saturated with information but starving for incarnation. The early church understood something profound: presence is greater than information. They devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer—all activities requiring physical presence and intentional time.

You can download a fitness app, but it can't chase you up a hill like a friend running beside you. Similarly, biblical truths stick better when another believer is walking up that hill with you. Your workplace, your neighborhood, your family—these are mission fields where broken, hurting people desperately need someone to be present with them. Don't just drop truth at someone's door and walk away. Stay. Connect. Engage. Your presence carries the presence of Christ.

Reflection Question: Where is God calling you to be more present rather than just providing information?

Day 3: Devoted to Doctrine

Reading: 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Devotional: A disciple is a constant learner. When you begin following Jesus, you enroll in a lifelong classroom—graduation only comes when you pass from this world to the next. The early believers were continually devoted to the apostles' teaching because they understood that to make disciples, you must first be a disciple. You cannot give what you don't have. Paul's instruction to Timothy reveals the multiplication principle of discipleship: what you learn from faithful teachers, entrust to faithful people who will teach others also. This isn't about knowing everything—it's about remaining teachable. God is always trying to teach us something new, even in familiar scriptures. Your devotion to God's Word isn't just for your growth; it's preparation for teaching others.

Reflection Question: What is God currently teaching you that you need to share with someone else?

Day 4: Breaking Through Barriers

Reading: Philippians 2:5-8

Devotional: Jesus left heaven's glory, emptied Himself, and moved in among us. He didn't present salvation from a safe distance. What barriers are keeping you from connecting with others? Too busy? Jesus made time. Introverted? God's grace is sufficient, and His power is perfected in weakness. Afraid they'll ask questions you can't answer? Say, "Let's search that together." The biggest lie the enemy tells the church is "I'm too busy." BUSY is an acronym for Being Under Satan's Yoke. You make time for what's important to you. Jesus crossed every barrier to make us His

own. Now the Holy Spirit urges us to cross the street, the cafeteria, the cubicle—whatever it takes to connect and engage until strangers become disciples and disciples become disciple-makers.

Reflection Question: What barrier do you need to overcome this week to connect with someone who needs Jesus?

Day 5: Living Testimonies

Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:1

Devotional: Paul boldly declared, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ." Your life is a living testimony—not just the story of how you got saved years ago, but the fresh evidence of what God is doing right now. People need to see how you handle situations, ask for forgiveness, serve your spouse, and overcome failures. Don't hide your struggles; they're part of your testimony. You can't have a testimony without first being tested. Model Christ before those you're teaching. Let others see you repent, grow, and trust God through difficulties. This authenticity turns doctrine into muscle memory for those watching. God is still working in your life every single day—share it. Your current testimony of God's faithfulness, provision, and transformation is the bridge that helps others cross from doubt to faith.

Reflection Question: What is your fresh testimony of what God is doing in your life right now that someone needs to hear?

Weekly Challenge:

This week, pray daily: "God, give me one person I can share what You're teaching me." Then open your calendar and schedule time to connect with that person. Remember: presence is greater than information, and discipleship happens as you are going.