



5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Built to Follow: Becoming a Lifelong Disciple of Christ

Day 1: The Call to Follow

Reading: Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:23-24

Devotional: Discipleship is not a suggestion — it is a commission. Jesus did not say "consider going" or "if you feel ready, make disciples." He said go. And in your going, as you are still learning and still growing, you bring others along with you. You do not need to have everything figured out before you begin teaching someone else what you already know. The call to follow Christ is also a call to lead others toward him. What you have learned this week is enough to share with someone else today. Discipleship begins the moment you say yes.

Reflection: Who in your life could benefit from what God has been teaching you recently? Take one step today to share it with them.

Day 2: A Tender Heart Before God

Reading: Ezekiel 36:26-27; Psalm 139:23-24

Ezekiel 36:26-27 describes God's promise to replace a hardened, unresponsive heart with one that is soft and alive toward him. Psalm 139:23-24 is a prayer inviting God to search the heart and reveal anything that has grown distant from his ways.

Devotional: Life has a way of hardening us. Disappointment, betrayal, unanswered prayer, and repeated pain can slowly build layers around our hearts until the things that once moved us no longer do. A calloused hand helps you

keep working. A calloused heart keeps God from working in you. The remedy is not willpower — it is surrender. Ask God to do what only he can do: remove the stone and replace it with something living. A tender heart is not a weak heart. It is a heart that remains responsive to the voice of God and compassionate toward the people around you.

Reflection: Is there an area of your life where your heart has grown hard? Bring it honestly before God today and ask him to restore tenderness there.

Day 3: Thick Skin and the Grace of Forgiveness

Reading: 1 Peter 2:21-23; Proverbs 4:23; Hebrews 12:14-15

1 Peter 2:21-23 describes how Jesus, while being wronged and reviled, entrusted himself to the Father rather than retaliating. Proverbs 4:23 calls us to guard our hearts above all else because everything in our lives flows from it. Hebrews 12:14-15 warns that a root of bitterness, left unchecked, grows and corrupts many.

Devotional: People will say things that hurt. They will misunderstand you, forget you, criticize you, and sometimes genuinely wrong you. Thick skin is not indifference — it is the God-given ability to absorb the weight of offense without allowing it to take root in your heart as bitterness. Jesus is our model. He was betrayed, mocked, abandoned, and murdered, and yet he entrusted himself to the Father who judges righteously. You do not have to get even. You do not have to defend yourself at every turn. You can release it. That release is not weakness — it is the most powerful thing a disciple can do.

Reflection: Is there an offense you have been carrying that needs to be released to God today? Name it, pray over it, and choose to entrust it to him.

Day 4: Staying Teachable

Reading: Proverbs 12:1; James 4:6; Psalm 119:105

Proverbs 12:1 bluntly states that those who love correction love knowledge, while those who reject it are foolish. James 4:6 reminds us that God actively resists the proud but extends grace to those who remain humble. Psalm 119:105 describes God's word as a lamp and a light that guides each step of the journey.

Devotional: The moment you decide you have nothing left to learn is the moment you stop being a disciple. A disciple is, by definition, a lifelong learner. Class does not end until God calls you home. Staying teachable requires humility — the

willingness to admit you were wrong, to ask questions without embarrassment, to own your mistakes rather than conceal them. The word of God is not a checklist to complete. It is a living, deep well that never runs dry. Every time you open it, there is something more to discover. Stay curious. Stay humble. Stay in the word.

Reflection: In what area of your spiritual life have you stopped growing or stopped asking questions? Commit today to reopening that conversation with God.

Day 5: Enduring Discouragement and Finishing Strong

Reading: John 16:33; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Galatians 6:9

John 16:33 records Jesus himself telling his followers that in this world they will face tribulation, but that he has overcome the world and peace is found in him. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 calls believers to encourage one another and build each other up. Galatians 6:9 urges disciples not to grow weary in doing good, because a harvest is coming for those who do not give up.

Devotional: Discouragement is universal, recurring, and contagious — but it does not determine your reality. You are still a child of God regardless of what you are walking through. Jesus never hid the difficulty of following him. He told his disciples plainly that hard things were coming. But he also told them where their peace would be found — in him, not in circumstances. The difficulty you are facing right now may not be a sign that you are doing something wrong. It may be the very classroom where God is teaching you to trust, to endure, and to become more like the one you are following. Do not quit. Keep going.

Reflection: Where do you most need encouragement today? Spend time in prayer asking God to renew your strength, and then reach out to encourage someone else who may be in the same valley.