



5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Resolved: Living Out Reconciliation God's Way

Day 1: The Enemy Within

Reading: James 4:1-10

Devotional: Before conflict can be resolved, it must be diagnosed. James does not point across the room at the offending party. He points inward. The quarrels that fracture relationships and divide churches are born in the hidden chambers of the human heart, where unchecked desires wage war against the Spirit of God. Pride whispers that you are right and they are wrong. Selfishness demands that your comfort be protected at any cost. Before you address anyone else, hold up a mirror. Ask the Holy Spirit to search you honestly. Surrender your kingdom so that God can reign as King.

Reflection: What desire in your heart has recently become a demand? Where is pride quietly fueling a conflict in your life?

Practical Application: Spend ten minutes in silent prayer today, inviting the Holy Spirit to reveal any hidden pride or selfish motive contributing to a current conflict. Write down what He shows you without defending yourself.

Day 2: The Power to Overlook

Reading: Proverbs 19:11; Matthew 5:43-48

Devotional: Proverbs 19:11 teaches that wisdom produces patience, and overlooking an offense is something that brings honor to a person. Notice that honor is not granted to the one who wins the argument or demands an apology.

Honor belongs to the one who extends grace when grace was not required. Overlooking an offense is not the same as pretending it never happened. It means choosing grace over retaliation while acknowledging that the wound was real. Jesus modeled this perfectly on the cross, where the greatest offense in human history produced the greatest demonstration of grace the world has ever witnessed.

Reflection: Is there a recent offense you have been carrying that could be released through a deliberate choice to extend grace rather than demand justice?

Practical Application: Identify one offense you have been holding onto. Write a short prayer releasing that person from your personal judgment and placing them into God's hands. Choose not to revisit that grievance today.

Day 3: Holy Heat -- Submitting Your Anger to God

Reading: Ephesians 4:26-32; Psalm 139:23-24

Devotional: Paul does not command believers never to feel anger. He acknowledges that anger will come. The command is what follows: do not allow that anger to become a dwelling place for sin, and do not let it linger past sundown. Ephesians 4:26-27 warns that unresolved anger gives the enemy a foothold, a territory, a place to set up camp inside your spiritual life. Anger left unchecked produces bitterness, harsh words, slander, and division. But anger submitted to God produces something entirely different. It produces clarity, humility, and eventually compassion. Bring your anger to God before you bring it to anyone else.

Reflection: When you are angry, who is the first person you typically turn to? What would change if you consistently brought that anger to God first?

Practical Application: The next time you feel anger rising, pause before speaking or responding. Pray Psalm 139:23-24, asking God to search your heart and reveal what is truly driving the emotion before you act on it.

Day 4: The Freedom of Forgiveness

Reading: Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:12-14; Matthew 18:21-22

Devotional: Forgiveness is not a feeling you wait for. It is a decision you make in obedience to God, often before the feelings follow. Ephesians 4:32 gives the reason plainly: forgive one another just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

The standard is not whether the offender deserves grace. None of us deserved the grace we received. The standard is what God did for us when we were still in conflict with Him. He took the initiative. He stepped toward us. Forgiveness releases the debt and places the offender into the righteous hands of God. It is not weakness. It is the most courageous act a believer can perform.

Reflection: Is there someone in your life whose debt you are still collecting on, even after telling yourself and others that you have forgiven them?

Practical Application: Write down the name of one person you need to forgive. Beside their name, write out what it cost God to forgive you. Pray over that comparison honestly, and make a deliberate choice to release that person's debt to God today.

Day 5: The Ministry of Reconciliation

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 12:18; Matthew 5:9

Devotional: God did not simply forgive humanity and move on. He pursued reconciliation through the person of Jesus Christ, and then He entrusted that same ministry to every believer. You are an ambassador of reconciliation. The way you handle conflict with a fellow believer is a living sermon to the watching world about who God is and what the gospel actually does. Romans 12:18 makes clear that the responsibility rests on you regardless of the other person's response. Do everything that depends on you to live at peace. The goal is not to win the argument. The goal is to win the person, and in doing so, to reflect the heart of Christ to a divided world.

Reflection: Is there a broken relationship in your life where you have been waiting for the other person to move first? What would it look like for you to take the initiative today?

Practical Application: Identify one relationship in need of reconciliation. Take one concrete step toward that person this week, whether a phone call, a handwritten note, or a direct conversation. Pray before you reach out, align your heart with God's desire for restoration, and trust Him with the outcome.