

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Sermon "Encouraging Church"

Day 1: The Authority Behind the Call

Reading: Matthew 28:18-20

Devotional: The command to go does not rest on our own strength or confidence. It rests entirely on the authority of the One who sends us. Jesus does not say "go if you feel ready" or "go when conditions are favorable." He says go because all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Him. The same voice that commands also promises presence. You are never sent alone. Before you take a single step of obedience, remember whose name you carry and whose power backs every word you speak. That changes everything about how you go.

Reflection: In what area of your life is God calling you to step forward in obedience, trusting His authority rather than your own ability?

Practical Application: Write down one thing you have been hesitating to do for God. Pray over it today, surrendering your fear to the One who holds all authority.

Day 2: The Church Is the Way

Reading: Ephesians 3:10-21

Devotional: The church is not a building, a program, or an organization. It is the living, breathing expression of God's wisdom made visible to the world. Ephesians 3:10 describes how God intends to make His manifold wisdom

known through the church. This means that every gathering, every act of worship, every moment of genuine community carries cosmic significance. When believers encourage one another, welcome strangers, and remain faithful in ordinary life, they are participating in something far greater than themselves. God is not building an institution. He is building a family that reflects His glory throughout all generations.

Reflection: How do you view your role within your local church? Do you see it as central to God's mission or secondary to it?

Practical Application: Reach out this week to one person in your church community with a specific word of encouragement rooted in something true you have observed in their faith.

Day 3: Faithful in the Wilderness

Reading: Numbers 32:6-12 and Joshua 1:12-18

Devotional: The Israelites wandered for forty years not because God abandoned them, but because fear and discouragement kept them from entering what God had already promised. Moses confronted Gad and Reuben not merely for their own comfort-seeking, but for the damage their attitude would cause to the hearts of others. Discouragement is never a private matter. It spreads. But so does courage. When the fighting men of Reuben and Gad finally committed to go before their brothers into battle, their obedience became an act of encouragement for the entire nation. Your faithfulness in difficult seasons strengthens the people around you more than you know.

Reflection: Is there a way in which your own hesitation or withdrawal has discouraged someone else in their walk with God?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life who is pressing forward in faith despite difficulty. Tell them specifically how their example has encouraged you.

Day 4: The Marks of an Encouraging Life

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8 and 2 Timothy 1:5

Devotional: The companions who traveled with Paul across regions and borders each brought something distinct to the mission. Some brought deep knowledge of Scripture. Some brought joy in affliction. Some brought sincere faith passed down through generations. Some brought hospitality. None of them were identical, and that was precisely the point. Biblical encouragement is not a single act performed by a certain type of person. It is the overflow of a life genuinely surrendered to God. When your faith is sincere and your life consistent, it becomes contagious. The faith of a grandmother shaped Timothy. The joy of the Thessalonians reached regions they never visited. Your life is speaking whether you realize it or not.

Reflection: Which of the qualities described in today's reading do you sense God developing in you? Which feels most lacking?

Practical Application: Choose one quality from today's reading, whether it is being rooted in the Word, being hospitable, or living with sincere faith, and commit to one concrete expression of it this week.

Day 5: Mutual Encouragement and the Hope Ahead

Reading: Romans 1:11-12 and Romans 15:4-7

Devotional: Paul longed to visit the church in Rome not simply to give something to them, but to be mutually encouraged alongside them. This is the heartbeat of the body of Christ. Encouragement flows in every direction. It is not a resource that only the strong offer to the weak. It is the natural movement of people who are genuinely anchored in faith, hope, and love. The Scriptures were written so that through endurance and their encouragement we might have hope. When you open God's Word and

share what you find there, you are passing on hope. And that hope, unlike Hamlet's uncertain dream, is sure. To live is Christ. To die is gain. For us, the question was never whether to go.

Reflection: Who in your life needs the specific hope that comes from Scripture right now? What passage has God used to sustain you that you could share with them?

Practical Application: Write a brief note or message to someone this week that includes a Scripture reference and a sentence or two about why that passage has given you hope. Speak truth, not flattery. Encourage with the Word.