

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Who Is Jesus? Knowing the Messiah Beyond Our Expectations

Day 1: Letting Go of Lesser Visions

Reading: Matthew 16:13-17

In this passage, Jesus asks the question that cuts through every assumption and expectation: who do you say that He is? The disciples had heard the crowd's answers. Prophet. Teacher. A great man. But Jesus pressed past the crowd's opinion and demanded a personal answer. It is easy to inherit a version of Jesus shaped by culture, tradition, or personal preference. But a secondhand Jesus cannot save. Peter's declaration came not from human reasoning but from divine revelation. Ask yourself honestly today: is your understanding of Jesus built on who He actually is, or on who you have needed Him to be?

Reflection: What assumptions about Jesus do you need to lay down in order to receive a clearer revelation of who He truly is?

Practical Application: Write down three expectations you have placed on Jesus that may not align with Scripture. Bring each one before God in prayer and ask Him to replace your expectations with revelation.

Day 2: Recognizing the Risen Lord

Reading: Luke 24:13-35

Two disciples walked the road to Emmaus with heavy hearts, rehearsing their disappointment. Jesus had not done what they hoped He would do. He had not fulfilled their vision of redemption. And so, though He walked right beside them, they did not recognize Him. Grief and unmet expectation can blind us to the presence of God. They were so focused on what Jesus had not done that they could not see what He had accomplished. It was not until He opened the Scriptures and broke bread that their eyes were opened. The risen Lord is present even in our confusion and grief.

Reflection: Are there areas of your life where disappointment with God has kept you from recognizing His presence and provision?

Practical Application: Spend time in Scripture today not looking for an answer to a specific problem, but simply allowing God to speak. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to what He has already done on your behalf.

Day 3: The Savior of the World

Reading: John 4:28-42

The woman at the well came to draw water and left having encountered the living God. What began as a conversation about her past became a testimony that shook an entire town. She ran back to the very people she had been hiding from, overcome by the reality of who she had just met. The townspeople came, listened, and arrived at the same conclusion: this man is not merely a prophet or a wonder-worker. He is the Savior of the world. Miracles and prophetic words can draw people toward Jesus, but they are always meant to point beyond themselves to Him alone.

Reflection: When you share your faith, are you pointing people to the works of Jesus or to Jesus Himself? What is the difference, and why does it matter?

Practical Application: Think of one person in your life who does not yet know Christ. Pray specifically for them today and ask God for an opportunity to speak not just about what He has done, but about who He is.

Day 4: The Word Who Became Flesh

Reading: John 1:1-18

John does not begin his account of Jesus with a birth story or a miracle. He begins before time itself. In the beginning was the Word. Jesus is not a figure who arrived on the scene 2,000 years ago. He is the eternal God through whom all things were made. He spoke the universe into existence and then entered that universe as a vulnerable child. He came to His own creation and His own creation did not receive Him. Yet to those who did receive Him, He gave the right to become children of God. That gift cost Him everything. It costs us our self-sufficiency.

Reflection: How does understanding Jesus as the eternal Creator rather than simply a historical figure change the way you approach your relationship with Him?

Practical Application: Find a quiet place today and spend five minutes in silence, meditating on the reality that the God who spoke the stars into existence knows your name and calls you His own.

Day 5: The Suffering Servant Who Saves

Reading: Isaiah 53:1-12

Written centuries before the crucifixion, this passage describes with piercing accuracy the suffering of Jesus on the cross. He was despised. He was rejected. He was pierced for transgressions that were not His own. The punishment that brought us peace was placed upon Him. He bore our sin not because He had to, but because He chose to. He came without

outward glory or attractiveness so that no one could be excluded from His reach. The lowest, the most ashamed, the most broken, the most far gone, all were within the scope of what He accomplished on that cross and out of that grave.

Reflection: Have you truly reckoned with the personal weight of what Jesus carried on the cross on your behalf? How does that reality change the way you live today?

Practical Application: Read Isaiah 53 slowly a second time, and wherever the passage refers to what He bore, insert your own name. Allow the personal weight of His substitution to settle into your heart. Respond in worship, in gratitude, or simply in silence before Him.