

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on "The Mandate Before Us"

Day 1: Prepared for One Groom

Reading: Revelation 19:6-9; Ephesians 5:25-27

Devotional: The church is not called to impress the world. She is called to be ready for Christ. Too often we spend our energy seeking the approval of people around us, shaping our faith to fit cultural expectations, and blending into surroundings that were never meant to define us. The bride does not dress for strangers. She prepares herself for one groom. Ask yourself honestly: who are you preparing your life for today? Let the Word wash over you, cleanse what does not belong, and renew your singular devotion to Jesus. He is worth every sacrifice of comfort and approval.

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life have you been seeking the approval of others more than the approval of Christ?

Practical Application: Identify one habit, attitude, or compromise you have allowed into your life to gain acceptance. Bring it before God today and ask Him to replace it with a deeper desire to please Him alone.

Day 2: The Great Commission Is Not Optional

Reading: Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 25:14-30

Devotional: Jesus did not suggest the Great Commission. He commanded it. Every follower of Christ is called to be a disciple and to make disciples. This is not the responsibility of pastors and church leaders alone. It belongs

to every believer. Discipleship is not about superiority or having all the answers. It is about walking together in the disciplines of following Christ, sharpening one another, and growing in the things He has commanded. You are never too new to be discipled and never too mature to stop needing it. The question is not whether you are called. You are. The question is whether you are responding.

Reflection Question: Are you currently being discipled by someone, and are you intentionally investing in the spiritual growth of someone else?

Practical Application: Reach out this week to one person you trust spiritually and ask to meet regularly. Alternatively, identify someone in your life you can begin encouraging and walking alongside in their faith.

Day 3: The Church Was Meant to Multiply

Reading: Ephesians 3:7-11; Romans 15:17-21

Devotional: God's design for the church has never been to gather as many people as possible under one roof and call it success. His design is multiplication. Churches planting churches. Disciples making disciples. The gospel reaching every tribe, tongue, and nation through a sustained, Spirit-led presence in communities around the world. The apostle Paul's ambition was to go where Christ had not yet been named. That same ambition should stir in us. The kingdom does not grow by accumulation. It grows by sacrifice, sending, and surrender. When we hold tightly to what we have built, we risk missing what God wants to do through what we release.

Reflection Question: How willing are you to give of your time, finances, or even your community to see the gospel planted somewhere new?

Practical Application: Pray specifically this week for a church plant or a missionary work you are aware of. Consider whether God is calling you to

give, go, or pray more intentionally toward the expansion of His kingdom beyond your local church.

Day 4: Every Believer Is a Leader and a Priest

Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 2:4-10

Devotional: God did not design the church to be carried by a few gifted individuals while the rest observe. He designed every member to function, contribute, and lead in the sphere He has placed them. You are a royal priest. That is not a metaphor meant to make you feel special without any corresponding responsibility. It is a calling. A priest stands between God and people, pointing others toward Him, offering up praise, interceding, and declaring His goodness. Your workplace, your neighborhood, your family, your circle of friends -- these are your altar. You do not need a title to fulfill your priestly calling. You need surrender and obedience.

Reflection Question: Where in your daily life are you uniquely positioned to point someone toward Christ that no pastor or church leader could reach in your place?

Practical Application: This week, look for one specific moment in your ordinary routine where you can intentionally represent Christ. It may be a conversation, an act of kindness, a word of encouragement, or a direct sharing of your faith. Do not wait for a more spiritual moment. This is it.

Day 5: Go After the Lost

Reading: Luke 19:1-10; Luke 5:27-32; Romans 10:13-15

Devotional: Jesus did not wait for the lost to find their way to Him. He sought them. He walked into their homes, sat at their tables, and called them by name. The church was never meant to be a fortress that waits for the broken to knock on its doors. It was meant to be a people on the move,

carrying the only cure the world has never been able to manufacture on its own. The lost are not a project. They are people with names and histories and eternities. You have been given the greatest news in the history of the world. The question is not whether it is worth sharing. The question is what you are waiting for.

Reflection Question: Who in your life does not yet know Christ, and when did you last intentionally create an opportunity to share your faith or invite them into community with believers?

Practical Application: Write down the name of one person in your life who does not know Jesus. Begin praying for them by name every day this week. Ask God to open a natural door for conversation, and when it opens, walk through it with courage and love.