

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Living for the Mission: Soldiers of the Kingdom

Day 1: You Are Part of Something Greater

Reading: Revelation 7:9-17 — A vision of an innumerable multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language standing before the throne of God, worshipping the Lamb who has shepherded and sustained them.

Devotional: It is easy to shrink the Christian life down to Sunday attendance and personal morality. But the picture painted in Revelation 7 is staggering in its scope. Heaven is not a quiet, private reward. It is a vast, thunderous gathering of redeemed people from every corner of the earth. You are not simply attending a local church. You are participating in a divine mission that spans continents, languages, and generations. The question is not whether this mission is happening. It is. The question is whether you are fully awake to your place in it. Ask God today to expand your vision beyond your immediate circumstances and to remind you that your faithfulness, however small it feels, is woven into something eternal.

Reflection: What has caused your vision for God's kingdom to shrink? What would it look like to live this week with eternity in view?

Practical Application: Set aside ten minutes today to pray specifically for one unreached people group or one nation outside your own. Allow the reality of Revelation 7 to make that prayer feel less like an obligation and more like a preview of heaven.

Day 2: Soldiers Who Know Their Why

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18 — A description of the full armor of God and the call to stand firm against spiritual opposition, equipped with truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer.

Devotional: A soldier who does not know the purpose of the mission is a soldier who will not last under pressure. The armor described in Ephesians 6 is not decorative. It is functional equipment designed for a specific battle with a specific enemy and a specific objective. Many believers put on pieces of this armor out of habit or religious routine without ever asking why. The why is the mission. The mission is the proclamation of the gospel to every nation, tribe, and tongue until Jesus returns. When you know that, the armor stops feeling heavy and starts feeling necessary. Knowing your why does not make the battle easier. It makes the sacrifice worthwhile.

Reflection: Are there areas of your spiritual life where you have been going through the motions without a clear sense of purpose? What would change if you reconnected with the mission behind your daily faithfulness?

Practical Application: Write down in one sentence what you believe God has called you to do in this season of your life. Carry it with you throughout the day and return to it whenever you feel distracted or discouraged.

Day 3: Recognizing Jesus in Every Situation

Reading: Luke 24:13-35 — Two disciples walk to Emmaus, grieving and confused, while Jesus himself walks alongside them unrecognized. He opens the Scriptures to them, and their hearts burn within them before they finally recognize him at the breaking of bread.

Devotional: Grief, confusion, and disappointment have a way of blinding us to the presence of Jesus. The disciples on the road to Emmaus were not faithless people. They had followed Jesus closely. But in the fog of loss, they could not see him even when he was walking beside them and speaking directly to them. This is one of the most tender and searching passages in all of Scripture. Jesus does not rebuke them for their grief. He

walks with them in it. He opens the Word to them in it. And then, in a quiet moment of ordinary hospitality, their eyes are opened. Jesus is present in your confusion. He is present in your disappointment. The question is whether you are looking for him there.

Reflection: What circumstance in your life right now is making it difficult to recognize the presence of Jesus? What might it look like to invite him into that specific situation rather than waiting for it to resolve before you draw near to him?

Practical Application: Read Luke 24:13-35 slowly and place yourself in the story as one of the two disciples. Journal what you would have been saying to Jesus without knowing it was him, and then consider what he might be saying back to you today.

Day 4: The Cross Is Not Just the Entry Point

Reading: Isaiah 53:1-12 — A prophetic portrait of the suffering servant who bore the grief and sin of others, was wounded for their transgressions, and through his suffering brought healing and peace.

Devotional: Western Christianity has a tendency to treat the cross as a door. You walk through it once, and then you move on to other things — spiritual gifts, community, personal growth, leadership. But the cross was never meant to be left behind. It is the center of everything. Isaiah 53 describes a suffering so severe that the servant was disfigured beyond human recognition, and yet this was the will of God accomplished through love and justice working together. The cross is not simply where your salvation began. It is the ongoing motivation for your entire life. To look at what Jesus endured for you and then live for comfort, reputation, or personal preference is to misunderstand what you were saved into. You were saved into a life shaped by the cross.

Reflection: Has the cross become routine for you? When did you last sit with the weight of what Jesus actually endured on your behalf and allow it to genuinely move you?

Practical Application: Read Isaiah 53 aloud today, slowly and deliberately. After each verse, pause and ask God to make the reality of Christ's suffering feel personal rather than theological. Let that shape how you interact with at least one person today.

Day 5: The Glory of the Resurrection Changes Everything

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-22, 54-58 — Paul argues that if Christ has not been raised, faith is worthless and the dead have no hope. But Christ has indeed been raised, and because of that, death is swallowed up in victory and the labor of believers is not in vain.

Devotional: Jesus is not dead. That statement sounds obvious, but many believers live as though it is not quite true. They live as though Jesus was a remarkable historical figure whose teachings are still worth following, but whose presence is distant and whose power is mostly theoretical. Paul will not allow that. He insists that the resurrection is not a footnote to the gospel. It is the gospel. If Jesus did not rise, nothing we do matters. But because he did rise, everything we do matters eternally. The resurrection means that the one who suffered for you is now alive, present, and actively at work in the world. It means that the mission is not a memorial project for a dead leader. It is a living partnership with a risen King. Go today as someone who believes that.

Reflection: In what areas of your life are you living as though Jesus is distant or inactive? How would those areas look different if you genuinely believed in the living, present, reigning Christ?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus. Commit to praying for them every day this week and ask God for

one natural opportunity to tell them not about a set of teachings, but about a person — the one who died for them and rose again.