

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from Pastor Paul Pett's sermon from Sunday, August 9, 2026, the Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost:

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Theme: Sent, Saved, and Sustained by the Word

Day 1: The Standard We Cannot Meet

Reading: [Luke 10:25-28](#); [Revelation 21:27](#)

Devotional: The law is not a ladder we climb toward God -- it is a mirror that shows us exactly who we are. When Jesus told the lawyer to love God with every fiber of his being and love his neighbor as himself, he was not offering a manageable checklist. He was revealing a standard none of us can reach on our own. Nothing unclean enters heaven. Nothing false. Nothing detestable. That verdict lands on all of us. But here is where the gospel begins -- not in our achievement, but in our honest reckoning with our failure. Humility before the law is the doorway to grace.

Reflection: Where in your life are you still trying to earn what only God can give?

Practical Application: Spend time today acknowledging one specific area where you have fallen short of loving God or your neighbor fully. Bring it honestly before God in prayer.

Day 2: The Word That Comes Near

Reading: [Romans 10:6-10](#); [John 1:1, 14](#)

Devotional: You did not climb into heaven to retrieve a Savior. You did not descend into the depths to raise one from the dead. Christ came to you. The Word became flesh and drew near — near enough to touch, near enough to heal, near enough to die. Paul's point in Romans 10 is staggering in its simplicity: the Word is already near you, in your mouth and in your heart. Faith is not a heroic spiritual ascent. It is a response to a Savior who has already closed the distance. Like a magnet drawing what it attracts, Christ draws us to himself through the power of his Word.

Reflection: In what ways have you been trying to reach God through your own effort rather than resting in his nearness?

Practical Application: Read John 1:1-14 slowly and aloud. Let the truth that the Word came near to you settle into your thinking before you move on with your day.

Day 3: Riches That Cannot Be Measured

Reading: [Romans 10:11-13](#); [Ephesians 2:4-9](#)

Devotional: When Paul speaks of God bestowing his riches on all who call on him, he is not describing a financial windfall. He is describing grace, mercy, forgiveness, and everlasting life — gifts that no amount of human effort could purchase and no human failure can permanently withhold from those who trust in Christ. There is no distinction. Jew or Greek, educated or not, morally polished or openly broken — the same Lord is Lord of all. The ground at the foot of the cross is perfectly level. What God offers, he offers without reservation to everyone who calls on his name.

Reflection: Do you tend to think of God's grace as something you must continually re-earn? How does that affect your daily walk with him?

Practical Application: Write down three specific gifts — spiritual, not material — that God has given you through Christ. Thank Him for each one by name in prayer today.

Day 4: Sent to Where You Already Are

Reading: [Romans 10:14-15](#); [Matthew 28:18-20](#)

Devotional: The chain of salvation described in Romans 10 is striking: calling requires belief, belief requires hearing, hearing requires preaching, and preaching requires being sent. But being sent does not always mean crossing an ocean. Sometimes it means crossing a hallway, a backyard fence, or a lunch table. God places his people precisely where he intends them to be. You are not in your neighborhood, your workplace, or your family by accident. You are sent there. The pastor cannot go where you go. The church building cannot follow your coworkers home. But you can be present, and your presence -- shaped by faith -- is a proclamation.

Reflection: Who in your immediate life has never clearly heard the gospel? What is one step you could take toward them this week?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your daily life who does not know Christ. Pray for them by name every day this week, and ask God to open a natural opportunity for you to show or share your faith.

Day 5: Faith Comes from Hearing

Reading: [Romans 10:16-17](#); [Isaiah 53:1](#); [1 Peter 3:15](#)

Devotional: Faith is not generated from within. It comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ. That means the stakes of speaking and living our faith are immeasurably high. One hundred percent of people who never hear the gospel will not come to saving faith through it. That is not a statement of condemnation toward them -- it is a call to

action for those of us who already know. Isaiah asked who has believed what they heard. The question still echoes. Peter calls us to be ready to give a reason for the hope we carry. That hope is not ours to hoard. It is ours to hand on.

Reflection: Are you living your faith in a way that makes others curious about the hope you have? What might need to change?

Practical Application: Memorize Romans 10:17 in whatever translation you use regularly. Let it remind you daily that the Word you carry has the power to produce faith in others -- and that God intends to use you to deliver it.