5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide Based on the Theme of Grieving With Hope

Sermon From Sunday, November 8, 2026, the Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Day 1: We Do Not Grieve Without Hope Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14
The world grieves without answers. Believers grieve with a foundation. Paul does not tell us to suppress sorrow or pretend loss does not hurt. He tells us to grieve differently, anchored to something real. The difference between hopeless grief and hopeful grief is not the absence of pain but the presence of a promise. That promise rests entirely on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When grief threatens to overwhelm you, return to the foundation. Jesus died. Jesus rose. Everything else stands on those two facts. Your sorrow is real, and so is your hope.

Reflection: What promises from Scripture do you return to when grief feels heaviest?
Application: Write down one promise from God's Word that speaks directly to a loss or fear you are currently carrying. Return to it each morning this week.

Day 2: The Living Savior Changes Everything Reading: Romans 6:8-11
The resurrection of Jesus was unlike every other resurrection recorded in Scripture. Lazarus was raised and died again. The widow's son was raised and died again. Jairus' daughter was raised and died again. Jesus rose never to die again. Death no longer holds dominion over him. This is not a small distinction. It is the entire foundation of Christian hope. Because Jesus has life in himself, a life that never ends, he is able to give that same unending life to all who believe in him. A Savior who could die again would be a Savior who could ultimately fail. Ours cannot.

Reflection: How does the permanence of Christ's resurrection change the way you think about your own mortality?
Application: Spend five minutes in quiet prayer, specifically thanking God that Jesus is alive right now, not merely a historical figure, but a living Savior who intercedes for you today.

Day 3: The Reunion That Awaits Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:9-12
One of the most tender questions believers ask is whether they will recognize their loved ones in eternity. Scripture points us toward a glorious answer. The passage in 1 Corinthians reminds us that now we see and know in part, but then we will know fully, even as we are fully known. The transfiguration offers a glimpse of this reality. Peter, James, and John recognized Moses and Elijah without introduction. Heaven is not a place of anonymity and isolation. It is a place of reunion, full recognition, and unbroken fellowship with Christ and with every believer across all of time.

Reflection: Is there someone you are looking forward to seeing again in eternity? How does that hope shape your grief today?
Application: Reach out today to someone who has lost a loved one. Remind them gently that what God has joined together in faith, death cannot permanently separate.

Day 4: The Trumpet Will Sound Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17
Paul does not leave the Thessalonians, or us, with vague spiritual comfort. He gives a vivid, concrete picture of what is coming. The Lord himself will descend. A command will be given. The trumpet of God will sound. The dead in Christ will rise first. Then those who remain will be caught up together with them. This is not poetry meant to be spiritualized away. It is a promise meant to be believed. The same Jesus who ascended into the sky will return from the sky. And when he does, not one believer, living or dead, will be left behind.

Reflection: How does the specificity of this promise strengthen your faith compared to vague ideas about an afterlife?
Application: Memorize the final phrase of 1 Thessalonians 4:17. Carry it with you through the day and repeat it whenever anxiety or grief surfaces.

Day 5: Encourage One Another With These Words Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:18 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
Paul does not end his teaching on resurrection with a theological conclusion. He ends it with a command to act. These truths are not meant to be stored privately. They are meant to be spoken aloud, shared with those who are hurting, and declared into the darkness of grief and fear. We have a living Savior. We will always be with him. These are not merely comforting sentiments. They are weapons against despair. The perishable will put on the imperishable. The mortal will put on immortality. Go and say so. Someone near you is grieving without hope, and you have been given exactly what they need.

Reflection: Who in your life is grieving right now and has not yet heard the hope of the resurrection spoken over their loss?
Application: This week, find one person who is grieving and speak these two truths directly to them: we have a living Savior, and we will always be with him. Do not wait for the perfect moment. The words themselves carry the weight.