Five-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on "The Word They Could Not Burn" — Jeremiah 34–36

Day 1: Promises Made in the Storm

Reading: Jeremiah 34:8–11; Deuteronomy 15:12–15

Devotional:

Desperation has a way of making us suddenly religious. When the walls close in, we remember vows we have long neglected and make promises we fully intend to keep — until the pressure lifts. Judah freed their slaves under siege and reclaimed them the moment the army withdrew. God saw it all. The test of genuine repentance is not what we do when the crisis arrives but what we do when it passes. Examine the promises you have made to God in hard seasons. Genuine faith does not negotiate with God only when the cost is unavoidable. It walks in obedience when the siege ramps come down.

Personal Reflection: Think of one promise you made to God during a difficult season. Did you keep it after the difficulty passed? What does your answer reveal about the condition of your heart?

Practical Application: Write down one specific commitment you made to God that you have quietly let expire. Identify one concrete step you can take this week to honor it.

Day 2: The Covenant Keeper We Could Never Be

Reading: Jeremiah 34:17–20; Galatians 3:10–14; John 8:34–36

Devotional:

In the ancient covenant ceremony, the parties walked between the divided animals, declaring in effect: "May this be done to me if I break this word." Judah walked between the pieces and broke the covenant. The judgment they invited fell on them. But the gospel is the announcement that a greater Covenant Keeper stepped between the pieces on our behalf. Galatians 3:13 describes Christ becoming a curse so that the curse we earned would not be the last word spoken over us. The freedom He purchases is not provisional. It is funded by His blood, confirmed by His resurrection, and granted to all who come to Him in faith.

Personal Reflection: In what areas of your life have you been trying to earn God's favor through crisis-driven obedience rather than resting in what Christ has already accomplished?

Practical Application: Spend time today meditating on the truth that your standing before God rests entirely on Christ's faithfulness, not your own. Let that truth shape how you approach one specific area of struggle this week.

Day 3: Faithfulness Across Generations

Reading: Jeremiah 35:1–19; Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Psalm 78:1–7

Devotional:

The Rechabites had kept one man's instructions for two hundred and fifty years. They kept them in the temple, surrounded by wine, with the eyes of Jerusalem's religious establishment upon them. They kept them while enemy armies drove them from their tents. Their circumstances were as difficult as Judah's, yet their character held. The contrast God draws is not between two sets of rules but between two kinds of loyalty. Judah had the living God Himself speaking to them persistently, and they would not listen. The Rechabites had a human father, and they obeyed without exception. The question for every household is whether the faith we model today will still be standing in our grandchildren's generation.

Personal Reflection: What are you actively doing to pass a living, obedient faith to the next generation in your family or community? What habits or patterns in your home work against that goal?

Practical Application: Identify one spiritual discipline or practice you can establish or restore in your household this week — one that is simple enough to be sustained and meaningful enough to be worth passing on.

Day 4: When the Word Confronts the Comfortable

Reading: Jeremiah 36:20–32; Hebrews 4:12–13; James 1:22–25

Devotional:

Jehoiakim sat in his winter house beside a warm fire, and as the scroll was read he cut it apart column by column and fed it to the flames. He was not ignorant of what he was doing. He was deliberate. He had heard enough to know the word demanded something of him, and he chose the fire over the surrender. The tragedy is that the scroll was not destroyed — it was rewritten, with additions. God's word outlasted the king's contempt. The question Jeremiah 36 places before every reader is not whether the Bible will survive our rejection of it. It will. The question is what becomes of those who choose the fire over repentance.

Personal Reflection: Are there passages of Scripture you have quietly decided not to apply to your life? What would it look like to stop editing and start obeying?

Practical Application: Open your Bible today to a passage you have found personally uncomfortable. Read it slowly and ask God to show you one specific way He is calling you to align your life with what it says.

Day 5: The Word That Rose From the Fire

Reading: Jeremiah 36:27–32; John 1:1–14; Matthew 24:35; Luke 4:16–30

Devotional:

The scroll burned in Jehoiakim's fire pot was rewritten. Every word survived. The Word of God that Nazareth tried to throw off a cliff rose from the dead on the third day. No king's knife, no crowd's rage, no grave's darkness has ever silenced what God has spoken. The same scroll that carried judgment also carried an invitation: "that they may turn from their evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin." That invitation still stands today. Jesus, the living Word, bore the judgment the scroll announced so that the forgiveness the scroll offered could be yours. He kept the covenant. He drank the cup. He rose. Come to Him.

Personal Reflection: How does knowing that Jesus is the living Word — who bore judgment and rose in victory — change the way you read and respond to Scripture in your daily life?

Practical Application: Set aside fifteen minutes today to sit quietly with an open Bible and ask God to speak to you through it. Come not to study but to listen — and commit to obeying whatever He shows you, regardless of the cost.