

5 Day Devotional Guide

When Grace Breaks The Rules

Day 1: The Deeper I Walk into God's Grace (Acts 11:1-18, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 7:47)

Devotional: When Peter returned to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him for eating with uncircumcised men. Peter simply told the whole story of what God had done. The result was silence, then praise: God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life. Church family, legalism always leads to exclusion. Grace always leads to greater love. The deeper I walk into God's grace, the wider I extend God's grace. Peter kept walking further into the river of grace and discovered it was wider than he ever imagined. Grace does not lead us to lower the standard of holiness. It leads us to greater obedience and greater love for the people God loves. Do not let customs or preferences hinder the work of God. Step deeper into His grace this week.

Day 2: When God Moves, Honor Him (1 Samuel 6:1-9, Psalm 96:4-5, Acts 11:17)

Devotional: The Philistines kept the ark of the Lord for seven months and suffered under His heavy hand. Their priests and diviners finally advised them to send the ark back with a guilt offering and not to harden their hearts. Children of God, even those who did not fully know the Lord recognized His power and chose to honor Him rather than resist. Peter asked, "Who was I to hinder the work of God?" When God moves among people we did not expect, our response must be the same. Do not harden your heart. Do not cling to old boundaries that God has already crossed. Honor the move of God even when it challenges your comfort. Revere the Lord and treat Him as holy.

Day 3: Legalism Excludes, Grace Includes (1 Samuel 6:10-16, Acts 11:2-3, Galatians 5:1)

Devotional: The Philistines placed the ark on a new cart and sent it toward Israelite territory. When the ark arrived, the people of Beth Shemesh rejoiced and offered sacrifices. People whom God loves, the Philistines, outsiders, treated the presence of God with more careful honor than many who claimed to belong to Him. Legalism says, "My rules and comfort matter more than you." Grace says, "God has made clean what I once called unclean." When grace captures your heart, people stop becoming your enemy and start becoming your mission. Let go of every preference that keeps others at a distance. Celebrate when God grants repentance and life to those outside your circle.

Day 4: Testimony of Obedience (1 Samuel 6:13-18, Acts 11:4-15, Acts 5:32)

Devotional: The people of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrifices to the Lord when the ark returned. Peter's testimony was simple: I was praying, God spoke, the Spirit told me to go, and when I spoke the Holy Spirit fell just as He had on us. Church family, a true testimony is not personal preference or self-promotion. It is the story of how God changed you and how you simply obeyed. Peter's obedience opened the door for the Gentiles to receive the same gift. God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. Share your story this week. Tell what God has done in you. Let your personal obedience highlight the greater work of God's grace.

Day 5: Walk Deeper, Extend Wider (1 Samuel 6:19-21, Acts 11:18, Titus 2:11-14)

Devotional: Some of the men of Beth Shemesh looked into the ark and were struck down. The people mourned and asked, "Who can stand in the presence of the Lord?" Yet the news still led others to receive the ark with joy. Church family, God's grace always leads to greater unity and greater love for people. The more we realize how much God loves us, the more we love the ones He loves. Grace teaches us to say no to ungodliness and yes to good works. Do not settle for the portion of grace you already know. Step deeper into the river. Write down your testimony. Share it. Live loved. Trust that God has everything you need. The deeper you walk into God's grace, the wider you will extend it to others.

Keep Moving Forward: Your Fresh Wind Commitment

As you complete this devotional journey, consider these practical steps to position yourself for God's fresh wind:

Weekly Commitments:

- *Attend Sunday worship consistently (aim for 3+ services monthly)*
- *Join Wednesday prayer gatherings to seek God corporately*
- *Participate in monthly Fresh Wind evening services*
- *Be part of a Discipleship Group*

Daily Practices:

- *Designate specific time for prayer and Scripture reading*
- *Remove one distraction that crowds out time with God*
- *Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh each morning*
- *Invite someone to join you in pursuing God's presence*