

5-Day Devotional: Living Free in God's Commandments

Day 1: The God Who Rescues

Reading: Exodus 20:1-2; Romans 5:8

Devotional: "I am the Lord your God who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery." These words establish relationship before rules. God reminded Israel of His deliverance before giving them instructions for freedom. Before commanding obedience, He declared His faithfulness. Today, reflect on your own "Egypt"—the bondage from which Christ has rescued you. Perhaps it was addiction, fear, broken relationships, or spiritual emptiness. God didn't wait for you to clean up first; while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you. Your obedience flows from gratitude, not obligation. Make a list today of the ways God has rescued you, and let thanksgiving fuel your devotion to Him.

Day 2: No Other Gods

Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 6:19-21

Devotional: "There is only one God, and you're not Him." This simple truth confronts our modern idolatry. The Israelites were tempted to return to Egyptian gods—familiar, visible, and seemingly controllable. What are your idols? Consider what consumes your time, money, and thoughts. Is it your phone, success, hobbies, or even relationships? Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." An idol is anything that becomes more important than your relationship with God. Today, examine your calendar and bank statement—they reveal what you truly worship. Ask the Holy Spirit to expose any false gods competing for the throne of your heart. Freedom comes when we dethrone everything except Jesus.

Day 3: Bearing His Name

Reading: Exodus 20:7; 2 Corinthians 5:20

Devotional: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain" means more than avoiding profanity. The Hebrew word "take" means to bear, carry, or wear. When you become a Christian, you literally wear Christ's name—you are a Christian. God commands us not to bear His name falsely. You are His ambassador, His representative in this world. People form opinions about Jesus based on how you live. When you accepted Christ, you exchanged your sin-stained life for His righteousness. Don't pick up your old life again. Let your actions match your identity. Today, ask yourself: "What does Jesus look like through my life?" Live in such a way that others are drawn to relationship with God because of the love they see in you.

Day 4: The Gift of Rest

Reading: Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 40:31

Devotional: God worked six days and rested on the seventh—not because He was tired, but to model rhythm for us. The Sabbath is God's gift of intermission, a holy pause in life's relentless pace. Taking a day to rest is an act of faith, trusting that God will provide even when you stop striving. The Israelites, fresh from slavery, had never known rest—only endless labor. God taught them that free people rest. In our culture of constant productivity, rest feels like weakness. But remember: you were created by a God who rests. Today, consider how you observe Sabbath. Do you create space to reflect on God's goodness, to remember where He's brought you from? Rest isn't laziness; it's obedience and trust.

Day 5: Walking by Faith, Not Sight

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:6

Devotional: The Israelites repeatedly reverted to old patterns when circumstances got difficult. They knew Egyptian culture—it was familiar, comfortable, even in its oppression. When Moses delayed on the mountain, they built a golden calf. Insanity is doing the same thing expecting different results, yet we often return to old bondage when faith is tested. Walking by faith means not reverting to what you used to know, but trusting in who you know now. God exists, and He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Faith is voice-activated—you must speak it and step into it. What "Egypt" keeps calling you back? What familiar sin feels comfortable when life gets hard? Today, declare by faith: "I will not go back. God is faithful, and He will see me through."

Closing Reflection: The Ten Commandments aren't just rules—they're a love letter showing us how to live in freedom. The first four teach us relationship with God; the remaining six teach us relationship with others. As you continue this week, remember: you bear the name of Christ. Live worthy of that calling, rest in His provision, and walk by faith, not by sight