

Day 1: God's Love and Second Chances

Reading: Romans 5:6-11

Devotional: God's love for us is not based on our perfection or performance. As we see in the story of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, God offers second chances to those who have failed or been afraid to step out in faith. Reflect on times when you've felt unworthy of God's love or hesitant to follow Him fully. Remember that God's love is unconditional and ever-present, waiting for us to embrace it. How can you step out in faith today, knowing that God's love covers your past mistakes and fears?



Day 2: Courage in the Face of Opposition

Reading: Matthew 10:16-33

Devotional: Following Christ often requires courage, as it may lead to opposition or persecution. Joseph of Arimathea showed bravery by claiming Jesus' body, risking his reputation and safety. Consider areas in your life where you might be holding back from fully following Christ due to fear of consequences. How can you cultivate the courage to stand firm in your faith, even when it's difficult? Remember Jesus' words that those who acknowledge Him before others, He will also acknowledge before the Father.



Day 3: The Cost and Reward of Discipleship

Reading: Luke 14:25-33 and Matthew 19:27-30

Devotional: Jesus never promised an easy life for His followers, but He did promise that the rewards would far outweigh the costs. Reflect on what following Christ has cost you or might cost you in the future. Then, consider the promise of a "hundredfold" return and eternal life. How does this eternal perspective change how you view temporary sacrifices or difficulties? Ask God to help you focus on the eternal rewards rather than temporary discomforts or losses.



Day 4: God's Presence in Suffering

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Devotional: The crucifixion reminds us that even Jesus, the Son of God, experienced intense suffering. Yet, through His suffering, salvation was made possible for all. When we face trials, we can remember that God is present with us and can work through our pain for a greater purpose. Reflect on a difficult situation you're facing. How might God be working through this struggle to refine your faith or to reach others? Ask for the strength to persevere and the wisdom to see God's hand at work.



Day 5: The Power of the Resurrection

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-28

Devotional: The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith, offering hope beyond death and the power for transformed lives. Pilate marveled at Jesus' death, but missed the greater marvel of His resurrection. How does the reality of the resurrection impact your daily life? Does it give you hope in the face of mortality, courage in the face of challenges, or power to overcome sin? Pray for a renewed appreciation of the resurrection's power and for it to be evident in how you live each day.