

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Themes of the City of God and the City of Man

Day 1: Created for Communion Reading: Genesis 2:18-25

Devotional: Before conflict entered the story, there was communion. God fashioned a garden, placed man within it, and gave him a companion. This was not merely domestic arrangement but divine revelation. Marriage mirrors the relationship between God and his people, and the garden itself was God's throne on earth. You were not made for isolation or self-sufficiency. You were made to walk with God, to guard what he entrusts to you, and to cultivate life in partnership with him. Consider today what it means to tend the garden of your own soul. Where has neglect taken root, and where might God be calling you back into his presence?

Day 2: Two Altars, Two Hearts Reading: Genesis 4:1-16

Devotional: Cain and Abel both brought offerings, but only one brought what God required. Cain's religion was built on the assumption that his best effort was sufficient. Abel understood that forgiveness required blood, that something had to die in his place. This tension runs through all of human history. The world still operates largely under Cain's assumption, that sincerity, effort, and moral achievement can earn divine favor. But grace, by definition, is unearned. You cannot climb to God. He descends to you. Examine your own heart today. Are you approaching God on your terms or on his? The altar of grace is already stained with the blood of the Lamb.

Day 3: Judgment, Grace, and the Ark Reading: Genesis 6:5-8 and 1 Peter 3:18-22

Devotional: God looked at the continuous evil of the human heart and grieved. Yet within that grief, he acted in grace. He did not simply destroy. He preserved. The ark was not merely a vessel of survival but a picture of salvation, one door, one source of light, one way through the waters of judgment into a new world. Peter draws a direct line from the ark to baptism and from baptism to Christ. You have been placed inside a wooden instrument of salvation. The cross has absorbed the storm that was meant for you. Rest today in the knowledge that God is the captain, and he is a perfect shot.

Day 4: The Cursed Soil and the Imperishable Seed Reading: John 12:23-26 and Genesis 3:14-19

Devotional: God cursed the ground after the fall, yet it is into that very ground that Jesus willingly descended. He was planted like a seed in cursed soil, and the earth could not hold him. The resurrection was the ground spitting out what it had no right to keep. Now that same pattern plays out in your life. God places you in difficult, resistant, sometimes hostile soil, not to bury you permanently but to produce a harvest through you. The thorns in your life, the difficult people, the painful seasons, are not signs of abandonment. They are the conditions God uses to bring forth fruit that will last into eternity.

Day 5: The City That Is Coming Reading: Revelation 21:1-7

Devotional: The story that began in a garden ends in a city, and that city is a bride. All of the longing, the homesickness, the tears shed over a broken world, find their answer in the New Jerusalem descending from heaven. This is not escapism. It is the most grounded hope available to the human heart. You were made for a world that does not yet fully exist, which is why nothing in this one fully satisfies. Every glimpse of beauty, every moment of unexpected joy, every time creation moves you to tears, is a signpost pointing forward. God himself will wipe away every tear. Your name is not forgotten. There is a place being prepared, and the one serving at that table bears nail-scarred hands.