

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Olivet Discourse and the Call to Readiness

Day 1: Do Not Be Alarmed -- God Holds the Throne

Reading: Mark 13:7-8 -- Jesus warns that wars, rumors of wars, and natural disasters will come, but instructs his followers not to be alarmed, for these things must take place and are only the beginning of birth pains.

Devotional:

Fear is a thief. It steals your witness, clouds your judgment, and whispers that God has lost control. But Jesus, speaking directly into a world of chaos and conflict, commands his people not to be alarmed. This is not a call to ignorance. We are not told to pretend the world is not burning. We are told to know who holds the match. Joshua 1:9 reminds us that the command to be strong and courageous is grounded in the presence of God himself -- he goes with us. Whatever news cycle is dominating your attention today, God has not been surprised by it. He has not left his throne. The Christian response to a terrifying world is not panic -- it is peace rooted in sovereignty.

Personal Reflection: What specific fear or anxiety is most consuming your thoughts right now? Bring it before God honestly and ask him to replace alarm with trust.

Practical Application: For one day, limit your consumption of news and social media. Replace that time with a passage of Scripture or a time of prayer focused on God's sovereignty and goodness.

Day 2: Persecution as Platform -- Suffering for a Purpose

Reading: Mark 13:9-11 -- Jesus tells his disciples they will be handed over to councils, beaten, and brought before governors and kings, but that this will serve as an opportunity to bear witness, and that the Holy Spirit will give them the words to speak.

Devotional:

It is deeply uncomfortable to consider that God may allow suffering not to punish us but to position us. The disciples were not dragged before kings because God had forgotten them. They were brought there because God had a message for kings, and the disciples were the heralds. Acts 7 gives us Stephen, who, while being stoned to death, bore witness so powerfully that a man named Saul of Tarsus watched the whole thing -- and the church has never been the same since. Romans 8:28 assures us that God works all things together for good for those who

love him. That includes the hard things. That includes the unbearable things. Your suffering is not wasted in God's economy. It is often his loudest sermon.

Personal Reflection: Can you identify a painful season in your life that God ultimately used for good -- either in your own growth or in your witness to someone else?

Practical Application: Write down the name of one person in your life who is suffering. Pray for them specifically today, and ask God whether he is calling you to be a witness of his peace and presence to that person this week.

Day 3: The Mission Does Not Change -- Preach the Gospel

Reading: Mark 13:10 -- Jesus declares that the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations before the end comes. Also read Mark 1:14-15, where Jesus summarizes the gospel as the arrival of God's kingdom, calling people to repent and believe.

Devotional:

Wars come and go. Empires rise and collapse. Famines devastate, plagues sweep through generations, and governments fail their people. Through every single one of those upheavals, the mission of the church has remained unchanged. Preach the gospel. The word Jesus uses for proclaimed in Mark 13:10 is the language of a herald -- a messenger who carries the king's words with precision and faithfulness, not personal interpretation. You are not the author of the message. You are its carrier. And the message itself -- that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for sinners and rose from the dead -- is the most stabilizing, life-giving truth in human history. In every season, in every hardship, that message is still the answer.

Personal Reflection: When life becomes difficult, do you find yourself retreating inward, or does hardship cause you to lean more urgently into sharing the hope you have?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus. Commit to praying for them daily this week, and ask God for one natural opportunity to share the good news with them.

Day 4: Repentance and the Kingdom -- Clearing the Throne of Your Heart

Reading: Mark 1:14-15 -- Jesus proclaims that the kingdom of God is near and

calls people to repent and believe the gospel. Also read Proverbs 29:25, which teaches that the fear of man is a trap, but trusting in God brings safety.

Devotional:

You cannot place a king on an occupied throne. Before Jesus can rule in a life, the false rulers must be removed. For most people, the most deeply entrenched idol is the self -- the quiet belief that we are basically good, that we deserve better than judgment, that we have earned our standing before God. But Romans 3:23 makes no exceptions: all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. Repentance is not a gloomy word. It is the most liberating act a human being can perform. It is the moment you stop carrying what you were never meant to carry and hand it over to the one who already bore it at the cross. The kingdom of God is not received by the self-sufficient. It is received by the broken who have nowhere else to go.

Personal Reflection: Are there areas of your life where you are still sitting on the throne -- places where you have not fully surrendered control to God? Name them honestly before him today.

Practical Application: Spend ten minutes in silent confession today. Do not rush past it. Let God bring specific things to mind, and receive his forgiveness through the finished work of Christ at the cross.

Day 5: Ready for Whatever Comes -- Living in Light of His Return

Reading: Mark 13:32-33 -- Jesus states plainly that no one knows the day or the hour of his return, not even the angels, and that his followers must therefore stay alert and watchful. Also read Philippians 4:8, where Paul instructs believers to set their minds on whatever is true, honorable, lovely, and good.

Devotional:

Jesus did not give us a detailed prophetic timeline so that we could build charts. He gave us enough information to know that his return is certain, his timing is sovereign, and our job is to be ready. Ready does not mean passive. It means faithful -- faithful in your witness, faithful in your worship, faithful in your suffering, and faithful in your joy. The Christian life is not a waiting room. It is a mission field. And the same readiness that prepares you to meet the Lord at his return also prepares you to meet him if your heart stops tonight. Eternity is always one breath away. The question Jesus presses upon every generation is not when is he coming -- it is are you ready, and are you helping others get ready too.

Personal Reflection: If Jesus returned today, or if you were called into eternity tonight, would you feel that you had been faithful with the life and the witness he entrusted to you?

Practical Application: Write out a short personal mission statement -- one or two sentences describing how you intend to live for God's kingdom in your specific circumstances this season. Keep it somewhere visible as a daily reminder of why you are still here.