

5 Day Bible Reading Guide

Day 1: Walking Worthy of the Lord

Reading: Colossians 1:9-14

Devotional: As we begin this week, let's reflect on what it means to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord" (Col. 1:10). This isn't about perfection or earning God's love, it's about aligning our lives under the Lordship of Jesus because of the incredible gift of salvation we've received in him. Just as a child's imperfect drawing brings joy to a parent, our sincere efforts to honor God please Him deeply. Today, consider how your daily choices reflect your identity in Christ. Are there areas where you can more intentionally live out your faith? Remember, God sees your heart and delights in your growth, even when it's messy or incomplete.

Prayer: Lord, help me to order my life in a way that honors you. Guide my steps and transform my heart to reflect glorify you to the world around me.

Day 2: Knowing God's Will

Reading: Deuteronomy 29:29, James 4:13-15

Devotional: We often struggle with wanting to know God's specific plans for our future. Today's readings remind us that while God's sovereign will remains hidden, He has graciously revealed His heart and commands to us through Scripture. Instead of anxiously seeking to uncover God's secret plans, let's focus on faithfully following what He has already made clear. How might your perspective shift if you trusted God with the unknown aspects of your life while diligently pursuing obedience in what He has revealed? Today, identify one area where you've been seeking certainty about the future, and practice surrendering it to God's wisdom and timing.

Prayer: Father, give me peace in the midst of uncertainty. Help me to trust Your sovereign will and to faithfully follow Your revealed will in Scripture.

Day 3: Empowered by the Spirit

Reading: Galatians 5:16-25

Devotional: The sermon on Sunday emphasized our need for the Holy Spirit's power to live out God's will. Today's passage contrasts life in the flesh with life in the Spirit. As believers, we have access to God's own strength dwelling within us! This isn't about compartmentalizing our lives into "spiritual" and "secular" categories, but allowing the Spirit to infuse *every aspect* of our being. Reflect on the fruit of the Spirit listed in this passage. Which qualities do you see growing in your life? Where do you need to more intentionally yield to the Spirit's work?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, would you, by your Holy Spirit, produce your fruit in me and empower me to walk in step with You today for my good and your glory.

Day 4: Enduring with Joy

Reading: James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-5

Devotional: The passage in Colossians 1 touched on enduring with patience and joy, even in difficult circumstances. Today's readings dig deeper into this challenging aspect of the Christian life. God doesn't just call us to grit our teeth and push through hardship; He invites us to find joy and purpose in the midst of trials. This joy isn't based on our circumstances, but on our unshakable hope in Christ. Consider a current struggle in your life. How might God be using this to develop your character and deepen your faith? Ask God for the supernatural ability to maintain endurance, patience, joy and hope, even as you honestly acknowledge your pain.

Prayer: Lord, in my struggles, help me to see beyond my circumstances to the eternal hope I have in You. Grant me Your joy and strength to endure, knowing that You are working all things for my good and Your glory.

Day 5: Living as Kingdom Citizens

Reading: Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Peter 2:9-12

Devotional: We close our week by reflecting on our identity as citizens of God's kingdom. While we live in this world, our ultimate allegiance and identity are found in Christ. This heavenly citizenship should radically shape

how we view ourselves and how we engage with the world around us. Peter calls us a "royal priesthood" and a "holy nation," set apart to declare God's praises. How does this exalted status humble and inspire you? Today, look for opportunities to be an ambassador of God's kingdom in your everyday interactions. Let your words, attitudes, and actions reflect the reality that you belong to a greater King and a higher calling.

Prayer: King Jesus, may I live today fully aware of my citizenship in Your kingdom. Use me to shine Your light and extend Your love to those around me. Help me to seek Your kingdom above all else.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- How have you experienced disappointment or confusion when God's will didn't align with your expectations? How did this impact your faith?
- In what ways do you find yourself struggling to submit to Christ's Lordship in your daily life? What areas are most challenging?
- What is the difference between God's sovereign will and His revealed will? Why is this distinction important?
- In what ways do you find yourself seeking to know God's 'hidden will' rather than focusing on His revealed will in Scripture? What drives this desire?
- How does understanding our identity as citizens of God's kingdom affect the way we order our lives? What practical implications does this have?
- How might focusing on God's revealed will in Scripture bring peace and confidence in decision-making, as opposed to trying to discern His sovereign will?
- What does it mean to depend on God's strength rather than our own in following His will? How can we cultivate this dependence in our daily lives?

Family Discussion Guide

- Can you think of a time when you really wanted something to happen but it didn't? How did you feel, and what did you do afterwards?
- What do you think it means to follow God's will? How can we know what God wants us to do? Where has he told us?
- What does it mean to live in a way that is pleasing to God?
- How does thinking of yourself as a child of God change the way you want to act or make decisions?
- How do you think the Holy Spirit helps us in our everyday lives?