

5-day Bible Reading Plan

Day 1: The Transforming Love of God

Reading: Romans 5:6-11

Devotional: God's love for us is not based on our worthiness, but on His character. Today's passage reminds us that Christ died for us while we were still sinners and enemies of God. Reflect on the magnitude of this love. How does knowing that God loved you while alienated from him and hostile in mind against him change your perspective about God and your life before him? Consider writing a prayer of thanksgiving for God's love and the reconciliation He offers through Christ.

Day 2: Unshakeable Hope in Christ

Reading: Colossians 1:21-23

Devotional: Our hope in Christ is described as an unshakeable foundation. Like a building constructed to withstand earthquakes, our faith is meant to stand firm amid life's turbulence. What "earthquakes" are you facing in your life right now? How can you anchor yourself more firmly to the hope of the gospel? Take time to meditate on the truth that you are "holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation" because of Christ's work.

Day 3: The Power of God in Our Weakness

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Devotional: God's power is made perfect in our weakness. This paradox is at the heart of the gospel - our inability highlights God's ability. Reflect on areas in your life where you feel weak or inadequate. How might God be inviting you to rely more fully on His strength in these areas? Who could you share this with in our church family?

Day 4: Continuing in the Faith

Reading: Hebrews 10:19-25

Devotional: The author of Hebrews encourages believers to hold fast to their confession of hope without wavering. This 'continuing in the faith' isn't about perfection, but about persistent trust in Christ. It's a community endeavor too, as we're called to encourage one another. Today, seek out ways to encourage a fellow believer in their faith. How can you spur someone on toward love and good deeds?

Day 5: Hope in Suffering

Reading: Romans 8:18-25

Devotional: Paul acknowledges the reality of present sufferings but points to a future glory that far outweighs them. Our hope in Christ isn't just for this life, but for eternity. This perspective can radically alter how we view our current struggles. Reflect on a difficult situation you're facing. How does the promise of future glory impact your outlook? How might this shift your prayers, attitudes, or actions in the face of challenges?

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

- Paul describes our natural state as being 'alienated from God' and 'hostile in mind.' How does this description challenge your view of human nature, and what implications does it have for how we understand salvation?
- How does understanding the depth of our sinful nature enhance our appreciation for God's love in saving us?
- What does the 'if' statement in verse 23 mean? What is the relationship between our continuing in the faith and God's power to keep us?
- What is the difference between being 'faith adjacent' and having true saving faith? How can we examine our own hearts to ensure we're not merely going through the motions of Christianity but are truly in Christ?
- How does the gospel serve as a foundation for all aspects of our lives, not just our initial salvation? Can you think of an example of how you've needed to 'come back to the gospel' in a specific situation?
- In what ways might we be tempted to 'shift from the hope of the gospel' in our daily lives? How can we actively resist these temptations?

Family Discussion Guide

- Why is it necessary for a building to have a strong foundation? Why do you think it's important to have a strong foundation in our faith too?
- What should that foundation be?
- Colossians 1:21 says that in our natural state we are alienated from God? What do you think this means? Why is this the case?
- Why is it important to believe what God says about us even if we don't truly understand or feel it is the case?
- We learned that we might face temptations that try to shake our faith. Can you give an example of a temptation you might face?
- The sermon emphasized coming back to the gospel message every day. How do you remind yourself of God's love and the teachings of Jesus each day? What can our family do together to keep God's message alive in our hearts?
- In Romans 5:8, we learn that God loves us even when we were still sinners against him. What does this mean for our lives going forward? Can we ever lose God's love for us? Why?