

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on "The Promise of Heaven" Sermon Series

Day 1: Do Not Let Your Heart Be Troubled

Reading: John 14:1-4

Devotional: Jesus spoke these words to disciples who were anxious, confused, and standing on the edge of something they could not fully understand. His instruction was not a dismissal of their pain but a redirection of their trust. Trouble finds all of us. Circumstances shift, plans unravel, and life rarely moves the way we expect. Yet Jesus does not say "do not be troubled because everything will go smoothly." He says trust in me. The foundation of a settled heart is not favorable circumstances but a Person. Believing in Jesus is not a passive sentiment. It is an active, daily decision to anchor your heart in one who holds authority over every storm you will ever face.

Reflection Questions:

- In what area of your life are you currently trusting circumstances more than you are trusting Christ?
- What would it look like practically to redirect that trust today?

Practical Application: Write down one specific worry you are carrying. Beside it, write one truth about the character of Jesus that speaks directly to that worry. Return to that truth every time the worry resurfaces this week.

Day 2: There Is Room for You

Reading: John 14:2; Psalm 23:1-6

Devotional: Jesus declared that his Father's house has many rooms and that he is personally preparing a place for you. This is not a general statement aimed at humanity as a collective. It is a personal promise aimed at you by name. The God who created every mountain range, every monarch butterfly, every color that fills an autumn sky, is the same God who is crafting a space in eternity specifically designed for you. Psalm 23 reminds us that God's goodness and mercy pursue us through every valley of this life. Heaven is not a distant, vague hope. It is a prepared, personal destination, and the one preparing it knows you completely and loves you fully.

Reflection Questions:

- Do you truly believe that God has a personal place prepared for you, or does heaven feel abstract and distant?
- How does the knowledge that God is personally preparing your eternal home change how you view your present struggles?

Practical Application: Take a walk outside today and intentionally look for one glimpse of God's goodness in the created world around you. Photograph it, sketch it, or simply pause and let it remind you that the God who made this beauty is preparing something far greater for you.

Day 3: The Character Behind the Promise

Reading: Hebrews 6:17-20; Numbers 23:19

Devotional: A promise is only as reliable as the character of the one who makes it. Hebrews 6 describes God's promise as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Numbers 23:19 reminds us that God is not a man who lies or changes his mind. In a world where promises are routinely broken and trust is repeatedly violated, it is easy to approach God's promises with the same skepticism we bring to human ones. But the promises of Jesus rest on a character that has

never wavered, a love that was demonstrated not in words alone but in a cross, an empty grave, and a risen Savior. His track record is the evidence of his trustworthiness.

Reflection Questions:

- Have past broken promises from people in your life made it difficult to trust God's promises?
- What evidence from Scripture or your own life confirms the trustworthiness of God's character?

Practical Application: Make a list of three promises God has kept in your life, whether large or small. Read them aloud as a declaration of faith, reminding yourself that the same God who kept those promises is the one who has prepared a place for you in eternity.

Day 4: Glimpses of Heaven on Earth

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:11; Romans 1:20

Devotional: Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us that God has made everything beautiful in its time and has planted eternity in the human heart. This means the longing you feel when you stand before something breathtaking is not accidental. It is God-designed. He has wired you to sense that this world, as beautiful as it can be, is not the final destination. Romans 1:20 tells us that God's invisible qualities are clearly seen through what he has made. Every sunset, every unexpected kindness, every moment when your heart lifts unexpectedly in the middle of a hard season, these are glimpses. They are God's way of whispering to your heart that something far greater is coming, and it is real.

Reflection Questions:

- When did you last stop and allow a moment of natural beauty or unexpected joy to point you toward God?
- What habits or pressures in your daily life cause you to look down rather than look up?

Practical Application: Deliberately practice looking up today. Whether you are in a park, your neighborhood, or simply your own backyard, pause for five minutes and observe what is around you. Ask God to use what you see to encourage your heart and remind you of his presence and his promise.

Day 5: Jesus Is the Way

Reading: John 14:5-6; Acts 4:12

Devotional: When Thomas admitted that he did not know the way, Jesus did not rebuke him for his confusion. He answered with one of the most profound declarations in all of Scripture. Jesus identified himself as the way, the truth, and the life. Heaven is not reached by a method, a system, or a set of religious performances. It is reached through a Person. Acts 4:12 affirms that there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. The plan of God is not complicated, but it is exclusive in the best possible sense. Jesus made himself the door so that no one would have to wander without direction. The way to the Father's house is clear, and it begins with saying yes to the one who prepared the room, made the promise, and rose from the dead to prove he has the power to keep it.

Reflection Questions:

- Have you personally placed your trust in Jesus as the way to the Father, or are you still searching for another path?
- How does knowing that Jesus is both the destination and the direction change how you walk through your daily life?

Practical Application: Close this five-day reading plan by writing a personal prayer of commitment. Thank Jesus specifically for being the way when you were lost, the truth when you were confused, and the life when you were spiritually empty. If you have never made a personal decision to follow him, today is the day to begin.

This reading plan is designed to be used in conjunction with the sermon series "The Promise of Heaven" at Hope Christian Church. Additional resources are available at hopeforwichita.org.