

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on "The Promise of Heaven: Living with an Eternal Focus"

Day 1: Set Your Mind on Things Above

Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

In this passage, Paul urges believers who have been raised with Christ to direct their hearts and minds toward heavenly realities, where Christ sits in the place of ultimate power and authority, rather than remaining consumed by earthly concerns.

Devotional:

Where your mind goes, your life follows. This is not a self-help principle -- it is a spiritual reality. Paul is not calling believers to ignore their circumstances or float through life disconnected from the world around them. He is calling them to a different center of gravity. When Christ becomes the lens through which you interpret your job, your relationships, your disappointments, and your daily decisions, everything shifts. You stop being tossed by every wave of difficulty because your anchor holds deeper than the storm. Today, before the noise of the day takes over, pause and ask yourself: what is actually occupying my mind? What is shaping how I see my life? Invite the Spirit to reorient your gaze upward, not to escape your life, but to live it with eternal purpose.

Personal Reflection: What specific worry or frustration has been consuming your thoughts this week? How might viewing it through an eternal lens change how you respond to it?

Practical Application: Choose one recurring anxiety or distraction this week. Each time it surfaces, pause and pray a simple prayer: "Lord, I set my mind on you. Help me see this through your eyes."

Day 2: Heaven Starts Now

Reading: Romans 8:18-25

Paul writes that present suffering cannot be compared to the glory that will one day be revealed, and that all of creation groans in anticipation of what God has promised. Hope, he explains, is not wishful thinking -- it is confident expectation in what has not yet fully arrived.

Devotional:

Eternity does not begin the moment you draw your last breath. It begins the moment you say yes to Jesus. The life of heaven is not a distant destination you board a plane for someday -- it is a reality that starts taking root in you right now, in the middle of your ordinary and sometimes painful days. This is why hope is so powerful. It is not denial of your suffering. It is the conviction that your suffering is not the final word. Like a traveler who can see the outline of the mountains on the horizon, you may not be there yet, but you know where you are headed. That knowledge changes how you walk today.

Personal Reflection: In what area of your life does it feel hardest to believe that God is still working toward something good? What would it mean to hold onto hope in that specific place?

Practical Application: Write down one promise from Scripture that speaks directly to a struggle you are facing. Place it somewhere visible and return to it each morning this week as an act of deliberate hope.

Day 3: Hidden in Christ

Reading: Colossians 3:3-4; Galatians 2:20

Colossians 3:3-4 describes the believer's life as hidden with Christ in God, a picture of security and identity rooted not in performance or circumstance but in union with Jesus. Galatians 2:20 echoes this truth, describing the Christian life as Christ himself living through the surrendered heart of a believer.

Devotional:

There is a profound freedom in understanding that your life is hidden with Christ in God. It means your identity is not up for grabs. It cannot be stolen by a bad season, a failed relationship, a lost job, or a cruel word spoken over you. When the world tries to define you by your worst moment or your greatest failure, the truth remains: you are held. You are covered. You are secure. This is not a passive reality -- it is an active one. Because you are hidden in Christ, you are also sent by Christ. Your security becomes the very thing that frees you to step into uncomfortable places, difficult conversations, and broken communities without being destroyed by them.

Personal Reflection: How has your sense of identity been shaken recently by circumstances or the opinions of others? What does it mean to you personally that your life is hidden with Christ?

Practical Application: Identify one relationship or situation where fear of rejection or failure has been holding you back. Take one small, intentional step this week rooted in the security of who you are in Christ rather than in fear of the outcome.

Day 4: Light in the World

Reading: Matthew 5:14-16; Ephesians 5:8-11

In Matthew 5, Jesus declares that his followers are the light of the world and that light is not meant to be hidden but placed where it can illuminate everything around it. Ephesians 5 reinforces this by calling believers to live as children of light, exposing darkness not through condemnation but through the contrast of a life genuinely transformed.

Devotional:

God does not place you in a difficult workplace, a broken family, or a struggling neighborhood by accident. He places you there on purpose. You are not there to be comfortable. You are there to carry something that the people around you cannot manufacture on their own -- the light of heaven. This does not mean you have all the answers or that your life is without struggle. It means that the way you respond to difficulty, the way you extend grace when others expect retaliation, the way you hold onto peace when everyone around you is unraveling -- these things point to something beyond yourself. You become a living glimpse of what heaven looks like breaking into ordinary life.

Personal Reflection: Who in your immediate circle -- a coworker, neighbor, or family member -- is living in a kind of darkness right now? How might God be calling you to carry light into that specific relationship?

Practical Application: This week, choose one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus. Pray for them by name each day. Look for one natural, unhurried opportunity to show them kindness or speak a word of genuine encouragement.

Day 5: Heaven-Minded, Earthly Good

Reading: Philippians 3:17-21; 1 Peter 2:11-12

Philippians 3 describes believers as citizens of heaven whose ultimate hope rests in the return and reign of Christ, while 1 Peter 2 calls those same citizens to live such honorable lives among those who do not yet believe that even skeptics might eventually glorify God because of what they have witnessed.

Devotional:

The old saying warns that some people are so heavenly minded they are of no earthly good. But the deeper truth is the opposite: when heaven truly captures your heart, you become more useful on earth, not less. You become patient where you were once reactive. You become generous where you were once guarded. You become present with hurting people where you once kept a safe and comfortable distance. A genuine focus on eternity does not pull you out of the world -- it sends you deeper into it with greater compassion, clearer purpose, and stronger resolve. The goal was never to escape. The goal is to bring something of heaven into every corner of the earth you inhabit.

Personal Reflection: Looking honestly at your daily life, what evidence is there that eternity is shaping how you live? Where is that evidence thin or absent? What is one area where you want to grow?

Practical Application: Set aside fifteen minutes before the week begins to ask God one question: "Lord, where do you want me to bring a glimpse of heaven this week?" Write down whatever comes to mind. Carry it with you. Act on it before the week ends.

This reading plan is designed to be used individually or in a small group setting. Consider journaling your reflections each day and sharing what God is teaching you with someone you trust.