5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide
Based on Themes from "The Noise of Heaven: Practicing Praise on Earth"

Day 1: The Center That Holds
Reading: Revelation 4:1-3
Devotional: John, exiled and alone, was given a vision of the throne of God at the center of heaven. When everything familiar had been stripped away, God showed him what was immovable. The throne was not off to the side. It was the center. Consider what sits at the center of your own life. Work, fear, grief, and ambition all compete for that position. But only one throne sustains order out of chaos. Whatever you place at the center will define what you worship. Ask God today to reclaim the center of your attention, your decisions, and your daily rhythms.

Day 2: Worthy of the Weight
Reading: Revelation 4:9-11
Devotional: The 24 elders do something striking. They lay their crowns down before the throne. Crowns represent authority, identity, and achievement. These elders do not cling to what they have earned. They surrender it to the one who is worthy of all of it. We carry our own versions of crowns, our reputations, our independence, our need to be right. Worship begins the moment we stop gripping those things and place them before God. Surrendering what you have earned is not weakness. It is the clearest declaration that you believe God is worth more than anything you could hold onto yourself.

Day 3: Saying the Name
Reading: Philippians 2:9-11
Devotional: Scripture teaches that God has given Jesus a name above every other name, and that at the sound of that name every knee will bow. This is not a distant, future-only reality. The name of Jesus carries authority right now, in the middle of your anxiety, your grief, and your confusion. The sermon made a simple but serious point: we tend to repeat what we fear rather than repeating what fear is afraid of. Practice is the idea. Practice saying the name of Jesus over the situations that are pressing against your peace today. It is not a formula. It is a declaration of where your trust is placed.

Day 4: Praise in the Valley
Reading: Psalm 34:1-8
Devotional: The psalmist declares that he will bless God at all times, not only when circumstances are favorable. This is the discipline of praise that the sermon described as practicing the noise of heaven on earth. Praise does not require that your situation has improved. It requires that you have shifted your gaze from the problem to the one who is greater than the problem. God walks with you on the mountaintop and carries you through the valley. His mercies are described in Lamentations 3:22-23 as new every morning. Whatever this morning looks like for you, there is fresh mercy in it. Look for it. Name it. Praise Him for it.

Day 5: The Crescendo Is Coming
Reading: Revelation 5:11-13
Devotional: John describes a sound that builds toward something almost incomprehensible. Tens of thousands of angels, joined by every creature, lifting one declaration: worthy is the Lamb. The sermon described this as a crescendo, a sound that keeps growing. Every act of worship you offer here on earth, however quiet, however uncertain, is part of that building sound. You are not singing alone on a Sunday morning. You are joining something ancient and eternal. When praise feels difficult or hollow, remember that you are practicing for something that will one day be fully realized. The crescendo is coming. Let your voice, however small it feels today, be part of it.