

THE NEXT STEP: EXPERIENCING GOD'S LOVE AND LIVING BY FAITH DEVOTIONAL 5-by Plan



### The Reckless Love of God

Luke 15:1-7

God's love for us is overwhelming, never-ending, and what some might call "reckless." Just as the shepherd in Jesus' parable leaves the 99 sheep to find the one that is lost, God pursues us with an unrelenting love. Today, reflect on times when you've felt far from God. Remember that no matter how lost you may feel, God is actively seeking you out. His love for you is not based on your performance or worthiness, but on His unchanging character. How might your life change if you truly embraced the depth of God's love for you?



## Stepping Out in Faith

#### Hebrews 11:8-12

Abraham's journey of faith began with a single step into the unknown. God called him to leave everything familiar behind and venture into uncharted territory. Similarly, our walk with God often requires us to step out in faith, leaving our comfort zones. What is God calling you to do that requires faith? It might be forgiving someone, sharing your testimony, or making a significant life change. Remember, faith is not about knowing the outcome, but trusting God with each step. Today, identify one area where you need to exercise faith and take that first step, trusting God to guide you.



# The Power of Baptism

#### Romans 6:1-11

Baptism symbolizes our death to sin and resurrection to new life in Christ. It's a powerful outward expression of an inward transformation. As we read about the young men preparing for baptism in the sermon, let's reflect on our own baptism or consider taking this step if we haven't yet. How has your life changed since accepting Christ? If you're baptized, remember the commitment you made and renew it today. If you're not, prayerfully consider if God is calling you to take this step of obedience and public declaration of faith.



Seeking the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-21

The gift of the Holy Spirit is a crucial aspect of our Christian walk. It empowers us to live for God and equips us for His service. The sermon mentioned seeking the Holy Spirit as a next step after baptism. Today, spend time in prayer, asking God to fill you afresh with His Spirit. Be open to His guidance and empowerment. How might your life and witness be different if you were more attuned to the Holy Spirit's leading? Ask God to make you more sensitive to His presence and promptings in your daily life.



Faith in Action

James 2:14-26

James teaches us that faith without works is dead. True faith inevitably leads to action. The sermon challenged us to put our faith into practice, to take the "next step" in our spiritual journey. What does this look like in your life? It could be serving in your church, reaching out to a neighbor in need, or addressing a harmful habit. Today, identify one concrete way you can put your faith into action. Remember, we're not saved by works, but genuine faith will always produce good works. Ask God to show you how He wants you to live out your faith today and commit to taking that step.