A Five-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Vapor

Day 1: The Honest Question

Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Devotional: The teacher does not open with comfort. He opens with candor. Life is fleeting, the work is endless, and no one is remembered. This is not despair dressed up as theology — it is theology honest enough to name what we already feel. Before we can receive an answer, we must be willing to ask the real question. What do we actually gain? Faith does not require us to pretend the question away. It invites us to bring it forward, to hold it up to the light, and to discover that the one who made us is not frightened by our honesty.

Reflect: What honest question have you been afraid to bring before God?

Day 2: A Time for Everything

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Devotional: The poem does not promise that every season will feel good. It promises that every season has its place. There is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. Grief is not a failure of faith. Loss is not evidence of abandonment. The teacher reframes the ledger entirely — what we count as deficit, God names as season. Each experience, whether bright or painful, belongs to a larger pattern held in hands we cannot fully see. Our seasons are not random. They are held within a time that God has shaped.

Reflect: Which season of your life has been hardest to trust as part of God's design?

Day 3: The Gift That Cannot Be Earned

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13

Devotional: The teacher arrives at a surprising conclusion. After questioning what is gained, he names what is given. To eat, to drink, to find pleasure in work — these are not rewards for effort. They are gifts from God. We cannot earn them. We cannot total them up on any ledger. This reorients everything. When we release the need to justify our lives through productivity or legacy, we discover that joy was never something we were meant to manufacture. It was always something we were meant to receive. Every shared meal, every moment of honest labor, every embrace — these are the fingerprints of a generous God.

Reflect: Where in your daily life have you been receiving a gift without recognizing it as one?

Day 4: Hope Stretched Taut

Reading: Psalm 39:4-7

Devotional: The psalmist stands in the same place as the teacher — face to face with the brevity of life, aware that every person is a mere breath. But the psalmist does something the teacher has not yet done. He turns. He directs the question not to the wind or the sun but to God directly. And in that turning, the question changes. It becomes personal. It becomes relational. The word the psalmist uses for waiting shares its root with the word for cord — a rope stretched between a person and the one who holds them. Our hope is not a feeling. It is a tether. And the other end is held by God.

Reflect: In what area of your life do you need to turn your question toward God rather than searching for answers in circumstances?

Day 5: The God Who Seeks

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:14-15

Devotional: The teacher closes with one of the most quietly profound declarations in all of Scripture. God seeks out what has gone by. What the world forgets, God goes looking for. What the ledger writes off, God reclaims. The same God who called out in the garden — where are you — calls out still, across every generation, toward every life that has passed like a breath into silence. Nothing done in faith, no name spoken in love, no life lived in hope is finally lost. Whatever God does endures. The saints we remember are not gone from God's sight. They are found, held, and kept by the one who never stops seeking.

Reflect: How does knowing that God seeks out what has gone by change the way you think about those you have lost?