

5-Day Devotional: Following the Light

Day 1: The Mystery of Divine Presence

Reading: John 1:1-5

Devotional: John invites us into mystery rather than certainty. "In the beginning was the Word" reaches beyond our comprehension, reminding us that faith isn't about understanding everything—it's about encountering Someone. The light that shines in darkness doesn't eliminate every shadow; it provides enough illumination for the next step. Today, resist the urge to have all answers. Instead, sit with wonder. Where do you sense God's presence, even if you can't fully explain it? What questions are you holding? Remember, the light doesn't overcome darkness through force but simply by being what it is—present, persistent, faithful. Your seeking itself is faithfulness.

Day 2: Faithful Following Over Perfect Knowing

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Devotional: The Magi embarked on their journey with incomplete information—a star and a question. Meanwhile, Jerusalem's religious experts had scripture, certainty, and all the right answers, yet they never moved. This contrast challenges us: knowledge without following is paralysis. Faith isn't about having perfect theology before we act; it's about moving toward love with whatever wisdom we have. The Magi's foreignness and "pagan" practices didn't disqualify them—their willingness to follow did. What star is catching your attention right now? What small step toward love can you take today, even without guarantees? God honors the journey of seeking hearts over the stagnation of certain minds.

Day 3: God Pitches His Tent Among Us

Reading: John 1:14-18

Devotional: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us"—or more literally, "pitched his tent among us." This isn't a distant deity issuing commands from heaven's throne. This is God joining our journey, becoming vulnerable, entering our mess. Divine presence doesn't mean all problems disappear; it means we're not alone in them. Jesus doesn't flood our landscape with clarity about everything

ahead; He walks beside us, illuminating the next step. Where do you need to recognize God's companionship today? Perhaps in an unexpected conversation, a moment of beauty, or even in your struggle. God's tent is pitched in your midst, not in some far-off holy place. Look for Emmanuel—God with us.

Day 4: Traveling by Another Road

Reading: Matthew 2:12; Proverbs 3:5-6

Devotional: After encountering Jesus, the Magi "returned home by another road." This detail matters. Faithful following doesn't mean stubbornly clinging to our original plans; it means remaining open to redirection. The journey changes us, and sometimes the path home looks different than we expected. What roads are you being invited to release? What new directions might love be leading you? This isn't failure—it's responsiveness. The Magi's willingness to change course protected the Christ child and demonstrated their trust. Today, hold your plans loosely. Ask God to show you if there's "another road" you're being called to travel—not because your previous path was wrong, but because love leads somewhere unexpected.

Day 5: Light Enough for the Next Step

Reading: Psalm 119:105; 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Devotional: We crave floodlights when God offers candlelight. We want the entire map when we're given light for the next step. But perhaps that's exactly the point—faith isn't a destination we arrive at with certainty; it's a relationship we nurture through faithful following. The psalmist says God's word is "a lamp to my feet"—not a spotlight on the horizon, but enough light for where you're standing. What's the next faithful step you can see? Maybe it's showing up for someone, offering a small kindness, or simply staying present in your current struggle. You don't need to see the whole journey. You just need to take the step illuminated before you. Trust that the Light who overcame darkness walks with you, and that is enough.