



5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Love Like You Have Never Been Hurt

Day 1: The Command to Love Without Condition

Reading: Matthew 5:43-48 — Jesus calls his followers to love not only those who love them in return, but also those who oppose, mistreat, and persecute them, presenting this radical love as the mark of genuine faith.

Devotional: It is easy to love those who love us back. The real test of Christian character comes when we are asked to extend kindness toward those who have wounded us. Jesus does not suggest this as an option for the spiritually advanced — He commands it as the standard for every believer. This kind of love is not natural. It runs against every instinct we carry. But it is precisely in that tension where God does His deepest work in us. When we choose to pray for someone who has hurt us rather than rehearse the offense, we open a door for God to move in ways that our bitterness would have permanently blocked. Ask yourself today: Is there someone you have been avoiding rather than loving?

Day 2: The Anatomy of Love That Endures

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 — Paul describes love as the essential quality without which every spiritual gift, act of generosity, and expression of faith amounts to nothing of lasting value.

Devotional: Paul writes this chapter not as a wedding poem but as a correction to a church that had elevated gifts above character. Spiritual power without love produces noise, not transformation. Notice what Paul says love does not do: it does not envy, it does not seek its own, it is not easily provoked, and it keeps no record of wrongs. That last quality is perhaps the most demanding. Keeping no record of wrongs means releasing the mental ledger we carry against those who have failed us. It means choosing, day after day, not to rehearse the injury. This is not weakness. This is the most disciplined act a human being can perform. What record are you still holding that God is asking you to release today?

Day 3: Betrayal, Faithfulness, and the Sovereignty of God

Reading: Genesis 50:15-21 — Joseph, after years of slavery and imprisonment caused by his own brothers, responds to their fear and guilt not with vengeance but with weeping, reassurance, and the declaration that what they intended for harm, God used for good.

Devotional: Joseph had every human reason to retaliate. He had been sold, falsely accused, imprisoned, and forgotten. Yet when the moment of power finally arrived and his brothers stood before him trembling, he wept and offered them comfort. How was this possible? Joseph had learned something in the long years of suffering that most of us resist learning: God's purposes are not undone by human cruelty. The pit his brothers threw him into became the path God used to position him. Whatever situation feels like a pit to you right now, consider that God has not abandoned His plan. The very thing meant to destroy you may be the very thing God uses to define your purpose. Trust Him in the waiting.

Day 4: Chosen When Overlooked

Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 — Samuel arrives at Jesse's house to anoint a new king, moves through seven sons who seem qualified by appearance and stature, and is redirected by God to the youngest son left out in the field tending sheep, whom God had already chosen.

Devotional: David was not invited to his own anointing. His own father did not consider him a candidate. Yet God had already seen what no one else could see. This passage carries a profound word for anyone who has been passed over, dismissed, or told they are not capable. Human evaluation is limited to the visible. God's selection reaches into the interior of a person, into the heart, into the character formed in quiet and unrecognized places. The field where David tended sheep was not a delay in his destiny — it was preparation for it. If you feel overlooked or underestimated today, do not let the opinions of others define your calling. God has not forgotten where you are.

Day 5: The Ministry of Reconciliation

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 — Paul declares that God reconciled humanity to Himself through Christ and has entrusted believers with that same ministry of reconciliation, making them ambassadors of a peace they did not earn but have freely received.

Devotional: Reconciliation begins with God, not with us. We did not initiate it, and we did not deserve it. Yet God, through the sacrifice of His Son, closed the distance our sin had created and then turned to us and said, now go and do likewise. This is the ministry we carry into every broken relationship, every strained family dynamic, every difficult workplace, and every tense neighborhood. We are not asked to reconcile in our own strength. We are asked to carry the same grace that found us into the spaces where others are still lost in the distance. You may not be able to control whether the other person responds. But you can control whether you extend the grace. Start there. That is where healing begins.