



5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

## **Based on "The Odd Thing About the Odds"**

### **Day 1: When the Odds Feel Impossible**

**Reading: Judges 7:1-7**

Devotional: God told Gideon he had too many soldiers — not too few. This defies every human instinct. We spend our lives trying to improve our odds, stack the deck in our favor, and reduce our disadvantages. But God deliberately reduced Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300 before sending him into battle against 135,000 enemies. Why? Because when the victory came, no one could claim credit but God. Consider the impossible situation you are facing right now. Perhaps God has not removed your disadvantages by accident. Perhaps He has arranged them on purpose, so that when the breakthrough comes, His glory alone fills the room.

Reflection: What situation in your life feels humanly impossible right now? Have you allowed that impossibility to shrink your view of God, or has it driven you deeper into prayer and trust?

Practical Application: Write down the circumstance that feels most overwhelming to you. Beneath it, write the words: "To the infinite, all finites are equal." Pray over that circumstance today with the understanding that its size means nothing to an unlimited God.

## **Day 2: The God Who Cares About Small Things**

Reading: 2 Kings 6:1-7

Devotional: A borrowed axe head sank to the bottom of the Jordan River. This was not a life-or-death crisis. No one was dying. No nation was at war. A student had simply lost a tool that did not even belong to him. And yet Elisha prayed, threw a stick into the water, and the iron floated. God answered. This miracle reveals something profound about the character of God: He is not only great enough to handle the catastrophic, He is attentive enough to care about the ordinary. He is not too busy with the suffering of nations to notice that you are anxious about your light bill, your car payment, or your child's needs. Nothing is beneath His attention.

Reflection: Do you find yourself hesitating to bring smaller, everyday needs before God, feeling as though they are not significant enough to deserve His attention? Where did that belief come from?

Practical Application: Bring one "small" request to God in prayer today — something you have been reluctant to ask for because it seemed trivial or selfish. Trust that the God who made iron float is not inconvenienced by your ordinary needs.

### **Day 3: Do Not Focus on Your Disadvantages**

Reading: Judges 6:11-16

Devotional: When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he called him a mighty man of valor. Gideon's immediate response was to list his disadvantages. He was the least in his father's house, from the weakest clan in Manasseh. In other words, Gideon's first instinct was to argue with God's assessment of him. This is a pattern many believers fall into. The enemy whispers that you are not educated enough, not talented enough, not experienced enough, and not worthy enough. God's Word declares something entirely different. He does not call you by your limitations. He calls you by your destiny. The question is not whether you feel qualified. The question is whether you will trust the One who called you.

Reflection: What disadvantages has the enemy used most effectively to hold you back from stepping into what God has called you to do? Have you accepted those limitations as permanent?

Practical Application: Read Psalm 139:13-16, which affirms that you were intentionally and carefully formed by God. Identify one area where you have allowed a sense of inadequacy to prevent obedience, and take one concrete step forward in that area this week.

## **Day 4: Lion Chasers and the Size of Your God**

Reading: 2 Samuel 23:20-23

Devotional: Benaiah chased a lion into a pit on a snowy day. He fought two of Moab's mightiest warriors at the same time. He snatched a spear from a giant's hand and killed the giant with his own weapon. None of these outcomes made logical sense. The odds against Benaiah in each situation were staggering. But Benaiah's confidence was not rooted in his own strength. It was rooted in his knowledge of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — a God who had parted seas, fed multitudes in wilderness places, and led His people with fire and cloud. How you view God determines how you face your giants. A small God produces a fearful life. A great God produces a life of bold, even reckless, trust.

Reflection: A.W. Tozer wrote that the most important thing about a person is what comes to mind when they think about God. When you face your hardest moments, what does your God look like in your imagination? Is He large enough to meet what you are facing?

Practical Application: Spend time today reading Isaiah 55:8-9, which describes the vast distance between God's ways and human understanding. Meditate on the truth that your greatest thought about God on your best day still falls infinitely short of who He actually is. Let that truth expand your confidence in prayer.

## **Day 5: God Orders Your Steps — Trust the Process**

Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 37:23-24

Devotional: The sermon reminds us that God wrote our days in a book before we were ever born. He is not reacting to our circumstances. He is not surprised by our failures, our detours, or our seasons of suffering. He is omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient — outside the limitations of time and dimension, looking in on every moment of every life simultaneously. This means that the hard season you are enduring right now is not outside His awareness or beyond His reach. He is not a God who is boxed in by your circumstances the way you are. He sees the beginning and the end at the same time. Your job is not to understand the whole plan. Your job is to trust the One who wrote it.

Reflection: Is there a season in your past where you can now look back and see God's hand at work, even though it felt like abandonment at the time? How does that history strengthen your faith for what you are currently facing?

Practical Application: Write out Proverbs 3:5-6 and place it somewhere you will see it every morning this week. Each day, identify one area where you have been leaning on your own understanding rather than trusting God's direction, and consciously surrender that area to Him in prayer.