

Be Ready: A 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Day 1: Preparation Is Positioning

Reading: Joshua 3:5; 2 Kings 4:1-7; 1 Kings 18:41-44

Devotional

Preparation is not passive waiting. It is active positioning. Before the Jordan parted, Israel had to sanctify themselves. Before the widow's oil multiplied, she had to gather empty vessels. Before the rain fell, Elijah told Ahab to prepare his chariot while the sky was still clear. God rarely moves without first calling His people to prepare. The miracle followed the preparation. Consider the areas of your life where God has spoken a promise but you have yet to take a step of preparation. Faith without corresponding action is incomplete. What empty vessel can you place before God today in anticipation of what He has already declared over your life?

Personal Reflection: In what area of your life are you waiting for God to move, yet you have not taken any steps of preparation? What does faithful preparation look like for you in that area right now?

Practical Application: Identify one specific step of preparation you can take this week in response to a promise God has spoken over your life. Write it down and commit to taking that step before the week ends.

Day 2: Do Not Procrastinate While You Wait

Reading: Matthew 25:1-5; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Devotional

The foolish virgins did not deny that the bridegroom was coming. They simply failed to prepare for his arrival. Their problem was not unbelief. It was procrastination. Procrastination is one of the most spiritually dangerous habits a believer can develop, because it operates under the assumption that more time is always available. The waiting period between a promise and its fulfillment is not wasted time. It is preparation time. God's patience in delaying the return of Christ is not permission to delay your readiness. Second Peter 3:9 reminds us that God's longsuffering is rooted in His desire for all people to come to repentance, not an invitation to postpone preparation.

Personal Reflection: Have you allowed the length of the wait to make you careless or complacent in your walk with God? What areas of your spiritual life have you been telling yourself you will address later?

Practical Application: Choose one area of spiritual discipline, whether prayer, Scripture reading, or worship, that you have been postponing. Begin it today, not tomorrow. Treat this day as the preparation time God has graciously given you.

Day 3: Get Your Own Oil

Reading: Matthew 25:6-9; Psalm 63:1-8; John 15:1-7

Devotional

There are things another person simply cannot give you. The wise virgins were not being selfish when they refused to share their oil. They were revealing a spiritual truth: personal preparation cannot be transferred. You can benefit from the faith of others, be encouraged by their prayers, and grow through their teaching. But you cannot substitute someone else's relationship with God for your own. Psalm 63 is a deeply personal cry of hunger and thirst for God's presence. That kind of hunger cannot be borrowed. It must be cultivated in your own heart. John 15 reminds us that abiding in Christ is not a group activity. It is a personal, daily surrender to the Vine.

Personal Reflection: Are you relying on the spiritual preparation of someone else, a parent, a pastor, or a spouse, rather than cultivating your own relationship with Christ? What does your personal walk with God look like apart from what others do for you?

Practical Application: Spend at least fifteen minutes today in personal prayer and Scripture reading with no outside assistance. No podcast, no worship music, no devotional guide. Just you and God. Practice the discipline of seeking Him for yourself.

Day 4: The Door Will Not Always Be Open

Reading: Matthew 25:10-12; Matthew 7:21-23; Hebrews 9:27

Devotional

Five of the most sobering words in Scripture appear in Matthew 25:10: "and the door was shut." The door was not shut out of cruelty. It was shut because the moment of arrival had come, and the time for preparation had passed. The foolish virgins came to the door saying "Lord, Lord," and yet He said He did not know them. This reveals that the parable is ultimately about relationship, not ritual. Knowing the language of faith is not the same as knowing the Lord of faith. Hebrews 9:27 reminds us that there is an appointed time for all things. The grace extended to us today is a gift, not a guarantee of tomorrow.

Personal Reflection: If the door closed today, would you be found ready? Is your relationship with Jesus built on genuine surrender and personal faith, or is it built on familiarity with church culture and religious language?

Practical Application: Take time today to honestly examine the foundation of your faith. Write a brief personal statement of what you believe about Jesus and what your relationship with Him is based on. Let this be a moment of genuine spiritual inventory, not performance.

Day 5: Watch Therefore — Live Ready

Reading: Matthew 25:13; Revelation 22:12-13; Titus 2:11-14

Devotional

Jesus does not close this parable by giving His disciples a timeline. He gives them a command: watch. To watch is to live with an awareness that the Bridegroom is coming and that how you live today matters in light of that reality. Titus 2:11-14 describes the grace of God as something that teaches us to live soberly, righteously, and godly while we wait for the blessed hope of Christ's return. The return of Jesus was never meant to produce anxiety or date-setting. It was meant to produce faithfulness. A lamp that is still burning when the bridegroom arrives is one that has been tended carefully throughout the night. Tend your lamp. Live ready.

Personal Reflection: How does the reality of Christ's return shape the way you live day to day? Does the expectation of His coming produce faithful living in you, or has it faded into the background of your daily routine?

Practical Application: Write down three specific ways you will live differently this week in light of the truth that Jesus is coming again. Let these be concrete, measurable commitments, not general intentions. Review them at the end of the week and hold yourself accountable to the standard of living ready.