

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Series: Miracles Do Happen

Day 1: You Are More Than What People See

Reading: Mark 6:1-6 -- The account of Jesus returning to his hometown, where those who were most familiar with him struggled to receive what God was doing through him.

Devotional: Familiarity can be one of the greatest barriers to receiving what God wants to do in and through a person. The people of Nazareth saw Jesus through the lens of his past, his family, and his trade. They reduced him to what they already knew. God, however, operates beyond what people can observe with natural eyes. If you have been walking with God, you carry something that cannot be explained by your background, your upbringing, or your reputation. Do not let the limited vision of others define the boundaries of what God is doing in your life. You are more than what they see.

Reflection: Are there voices in your life, whether external or internal, that consistently reduce you to who you used to be rather than who God is making you?

Practical Application: Write down one area of your life where you have allowed someone else's opinion to limit your obedience to God. Bring it before him in prayer today and ask him to replace that limitation with his truth.

Day 2: The Danger of Comparisonitis

Reading: Galatians 6:4-5 -- The instruction to examine one's own work rather than measuring it against another person's, recognizing that each person carries their own assignment before God.

Devotional: Comparison is one of the enemy's most effective tools against believers. When we measure our gifts, our progress, or our blessings against someone else's, we step out of faith and into envy. The people in Nazareth could not receive their miracle because they were too busy measuring Jesus against what they already knew of him and his family. They could not see his power because they were consumed with comparison. God's blessings are not distributed on a zero-sum basis. What he has for you is uniquely sized and timed for you. No one can take your blessing, and you cannot take theirs.

Reflection: Where has comparison stolen your peace or your sense of purpose? How has measuring yourself against others caused you to miss what God was doing specifically in your own life?

Practical Application: For one full day, make a conscious effort to celebrate someone else's blessing without qualification, without a silent "but what about me," and without retreating into your own unmet desires. Practice gratitude for what God has already done in your life.

Day 3: Unbelief Blocks the Miracle

Reading: Hebrews 11:6 -- The declaration that without faith it is impossible to please God, and that those who come to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Devotional: Mark 6:5-6 records something sobering: Jesus could do no miracle in his hometown because of their unbelief. He was not limited by power. He was not limited by willingness. He was limited by the condition of the hearts around him. This is a warning and an invitation. When we allow rejection, disappointment, or familiarity with our own failures to harden our hearts toward what God can do, we close the door on the miraculous. God is still a miracle worker. He has not changed. But our posture of faith matters. He is looking for hearts that are open, expectant, and willing to receive what he has already prepared.

Reflection: In what area of your life have you quietly stopped expecting God to move? What would it look like to reopen that door through deliberate, intentional faith?

Practical Application: Identify one situation you have mentally written off as too far gone for God to change. Spend time today in prayer specifically over that situation, asking God to restore your expectation and renew your belief that he is able.

Day 4: God Sees You Differently Than People Do

Reading: Judges 6:11-16 -- The account of God appearing to Gideon, who considered himself the least in his family and his family the weakest in their tribe, yet God addressed him as a mighty man of valor.

Devotional: Gideon's self-assessment and God's assessment of him could not have been more different. Gideon saw his limitations, his family's rank, and his own inadequacy. God saw a deliverer. This is the pattern of how God works. He does not call the equipped; he equips the called. He does not look for the already-polished; he looks for the available and the willing. If you have been listening to the voices that place you at the bottom of the hierarchy, whether in your family, your workplace, or your own mind, it is time to hear what God is actually saying about you. He sees you as more than what you or anyone else has declared.

Reflection: How has your own self-perception limited your willingness to step into what God has called you to do? What would change if you genuinely believed that God sees you as capable and chosen?

Practical Application: Look up and write down three scriptural declarations about your identity in Christ. Place them somewhere visible and read them aloud each morning this week. Let the Word begin to reshape how you see yourself.

Day 5: Move Forward -- The Past Does Not Define Your Future

Reading: Philippians 3:13-14 -- The apostle Paul's declaration that he forgets what is behind and presses forward toward the goal, toward the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Devotional: One of the enemy's most persistent strategies is to anchor you to your past. He will use your own memories, the words of others, and the weight of old failures to convince you that you cannot move forward. But Paul, a man who had a violent and destructive past of his own, made a deliberate choice to release what was behind him and press toward what God had ahead. You cannot walk in the fullness of what God has prepared for you while you are still carrying what he has already forgiven and forgotten. The miracle is ahead of you, not behind you. The calling is forward, not backward. It is time to move.

Reflection: What from your past continues to have the most grip on your present? Have you truly surrendered it to God, or have you been holding it in reserve, letting it speak into your identity?

Practical Application: Write a brief prayer of release. Be specific about what you are letting go. Then write one sentence about what you are pressing toward. Commit to reading both every morning for the next seven days as an act of faith and forward motion.