

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Series: Letting Go /Miracles Do Happen

Day 1: The God Who Tests and Trusts You

Reading: Genesis 22:1-2

Devotional: God does not test those He has abandoned. He tests those He is preparing for greater things. Abraham had walked faithfully with God for decades before this moment arrived. The test was not punishment; it was promotion. When God calls your name and asks you to surrender something precious, it is because He sees in you the capacity to trust Him at the deepest level. The question is not whether God is good. The question is whether you believe He is good enough to obey without full understanding. Today, consider what God may be calling you toward and whether you are willing to answer, here am I.

Personal Reflection: What has God been asking of you that you have been delaying?

Practical Application: Write down one area of your life where you sense God calling you to greater obedience. Commit it to prayer each morning this week.

Day 2: Letting Go and Trusting the Altar

Reading: Genesis 22:9-10

Devotional: Abraham built the altar himself. He laid the wood with his own hands. He bound the very son he had waited a century to hold. There is something deeply sobering about the reality that surrendering to God often requires our active participation. Letting go is rarely passive. It demands a deliberate, painful, and courageous act of will. Bishop Hayes said it plainly: letting go is the hardest part. Yet it is in that precise moment of release that God moves most powerfully. Whatever you are gripping tightly today, know that open hands receive far more than clenched fists ever could. Trust the altar. God has not forgotten you there.

Personal Reflection: What are you holding so tightly that it has begun to hold you?

Practical Application: Identify one relationship, habit, or possession that competes with your full devotion to God. Symbolically place it before God in prayer today, releasing your grip and your outcome.

Day 3: But God -- The Power of Divine Interruption

Reading: Genesis 22:11-13

Devotional: Two of the most powerful words in all of Scripture are simply "but God." At the exact moment Abraham raised the knife, heaven interrupted. The ram was already caught in the thicket. God had already made provision before Abraham ever climbed that mountain. This is the nature of Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who provides. He does not scramble at the last moment. He prepares in advance and reveals at the right time. Bishop Hayes testified of his daughter's miraculous birth, of a car that started when nothing else could explain it. These were not coincidences. They were divine interruptions. Your "but God" moment may be closer than you think.

Personal Reflection: Recall a time in your life when God interrupted what seemed like a hopeless situation. How did that moment shape your faith?

Practical Application: Share your "but God" testimony with someone today. Faith grows when it is spoken aloud, and someone around you needs to hear what God has done.

Day 4: Rejoicing Through the Fire

Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-13

Devotional: The apostle Peter writes that believers should not be shocked when trials arrive, because the testing of faith reveals its genuineness. But the instruction goes further: rejoice in the suffering. Not because suffering is pleasant, but because sharing in difficulty for the sake of Christ positions you to share in His glory at the revelation of His presence. Bishop Hayes made this clear: the deeper the mess, the louder the praise ought to be. Praise in suffering is not denial of pain. It is a declaration that God is greater than the pain. Abraham had a knife in one hand and faith in the other. That is the posture of a believer who understands what God is doing.

Personal Reflection: How do you typically respond to trials? Do you retreat into silence, or do you press into praise?

Practical Application: The next time a difficult moment arises today, pause before reacting and offer a word of praise first. Train yourself to respond to pressure with worship rather than worry.

Day 5: Obedience Builds a Legacy

Reading: Genesis 22:15-18

Devotional: Because Abraham obeyed, God swore by Himself that the blessing would flow not just to Abraham but through him to all nations of the earth. One act of radical obedience became the foundation of a generational legacy. Bishop Hayes closed with a sobering and powerful question: are you ready to lay it all on the altar so that generations after you can walk in blessing rather than bondage? The choices you make today in obedience to God do not end with you. They echo forward into the lives of your children, your grandchildren, and beyond. God told Abraham that in his seed, all nations would be blessed. Your surrender today could be the turning point for your entire family line.

Personal Reflection: What kind of legacy are you currently building? Is it one rooted in obedience, or is there still something on the altar that you keep taking back?

Practical Application: Write a letter to your children, grandchildren, or the next generation in your life. Describe the faith decisions you are making today and why. Seal it and keep it as a reminder that your obedience is bigger than this moment.

This reading plan is rooted in the sermon series Miracles Do Happen, taught by Bishop Hayes at The Cross. May these five days draw you closer to the God who provides, heals, sustains, and multiplies all that is surrendered to Him.