5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Understanding the Fight: Living as Witnesses in the World

Day 1: Called to Be Salt and Light

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16 — Jesus describes his followers as salt and light, explaining that each serves a distinct and essential purpose in the world, and that both are meant to be used, not hidden.

Devotional: The church was never meant to retreat from the world — it was sent into it. Salt preserves, seasons, and purifies. Light exposes, guides, and warms. These are not passive qualities. They require presence, contact, and intentional engagement. Ask yourself honestly: are you functioning as salt and light in your workplace, your neighborhood, your family? Or has comfort and convenience placed a bucket over your flame? God has stationed you exactly where you are for a reason. Your witness is not reserved for Sunday morning. It belongs in every room you enter, every conversation you have, and every decision you make throughout the week.

Reflection: Where in your daily life have you been withholding your light? What is one specific way you can function as salt or light this week?

Day 2: Witnesses, Not Warriors for Earthly Power

Reading: Acts 1:6-9 — The disciples ask Jesus whether he will restore the kingdom to Israel at that time, and Jesus redirects them away from political ambition and toward the mission of being his witnesses, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to the ends of the earth.

Devotional: The disciples kept asking the wrong question. After three and a half years with Jesus, they still wanted him to overthrow Rome and establish an earthly throne. Jesus did not rebuke their passion, but he corrected their focus. The kingdom of God does not advance through political conquest. It advances through faithful, Spirit-empowered witness. The church loses its saltiness when it becomes more invested in earthly power than in the truth of the gospel. Your assignment is not to rule the culture from a position of authority. Your assignment is to bear witness to the truth in every sphere of life you occupy.

Reflection: In what ways might you be more focused on earthly outcomes than on faithfully representing Christ? How can you refocus your energy on being a witness?

Day 3: Kingdom Authority Over Earthly Intimidation

Reading: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 — The apostle Paul explains that though believers live in the physical world, they do not fight according to the flesh; instead, their weapons carry divine power capable of pulling down strongholds and every argument that sets itself against the knowledge of God.

Devotional: You carry weapons the world cannot see and cannot match. Pride, wealth, fame, and political influence are the currencies of earthly power. But the believer walks in a different kind of authority altogether. When you enter a room where power is on display, you do not enter as a beggar seeking access. You enter as a representative of the King of Kings. This means you speak truth clearly, stand on God's word firmly, and refuse to be diminished by titles or net worth. The strongholds that oppose God's purposes in your community, your family, and your own mind are not too strong for the weapons God has placed in your hands.

Reflection: What stronghold in your life or community needs to be addressed through prayer and spiritual authority rather than human strategy alone?

Day 4: God Governs the Governors

Reading: Romans 13:1-4 — Paul teaches that all governing authority ultimately originates with God, that rulers are accountable to him as his servants, and that those who resist legitimate authority resist what God has established.

Devotional: Every leader, at every level, stands accountable before God. This is not a comforting thought reserved only for those who feel powerless. It is a sobering reminder that no title, no office, and no amount of earthly authority exempts anyone from divine accountability. For the believer, this means engaging with government and civic life from a posture of truth, not fear. We pray for our leaders, not merely about them. We speak to power with the confidence of those who know that the ultimate authority rests with God alone. We are not passive observers of history. We are participants in a story that God is authoring.

Reflection: How does your prayer life reflect a genuine concern for the leaders in your city, state, and nation? What would it look like to pray for them rather than simply about them?

Day 5: He Is Coming Back — Hold the Line Until He Does

Reading: Revelation 19:11-16 — John describes a vision of heaven opening and Christ returning on a white horse, his eyes like flames of fire, wearing many crowns, clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and bearing the name King of Kings and Lord of Lords, coming to judge and make war in righteousness.

Devotional: The story does not end with the church struggling to hold ground in a hostile world. It ends with the King splitting the sky. Every injustice you have endured, every prayer that felt unanswered, every moment you held your tongue when you wanted to retaliate, every time you chose faith over fear — none of it is wasted. The same Jesus who came as a lamb is returning as a lion. He is faithful and true. He rules in righteousness. Until that day, your assignment remains unchanged: be his witness, stand on his word, and refuse to shrink back. The fight is real, but the outcome is already decided.

Reflection: How does the certainty of Christ's return change the way you approach the difficulties and injustices you are facing right now? What would it mean to live today as someone who is fully convinced that God will have the final word?