

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Theme: Serving, Giving, and Living Beyond Yourself

Day 1: Giving Out of Need, Not Abundance

Reading: Mark 12:41-44

Devotional: The widow in this passage did not give from surplus. She gave from scarcity, and Jesus noticed. The sermon reminds us that real blessing flows not from comfortable giving but from sacrificial giving. When Pastor Tim and Debbie obeyed the prompting to give their emergency fund, they had no guarantee of return. They simply trusted. God does not always ask us to give when it is easy. He often asks precisely when it costs something. That cost is not a burden. It is an invitation to discover that He is more than enough. What are you holding back from Him today?

Reflection: What does your giving reveal about where your true trust is placed?

Practical Application: Identify one area where you have been giving only from comfort. Ask God whether He is calling you to give from a place of greater sacrifice this week.

Day 2: The Servant Heart of a True Leader

Reading: Mark 10:42-45

Devotional: Jesus redefined greatness. In a culture obsessed with rank, position, and recognition, He knelt down. He washed feet. He served the very ones who would deny and betray Him. David Edwards reminded the congregation that a servant is not a slave. Servanthood is a free and willing choice rooted in love. The strongest leaders history has known have often been the most devoted servants. When we choose to place others before ourselves, we are not diminishing our dignity. We are reflecting the character of Christ. Greatness in the kingdom of God is measured not by how many serve you, but by how many you serve.

Reflection: Who in your life is easy to overlook, and what would it look like to serve them this week?

Practical Application: Perform one deliberate act of service today for someone who cannot repay you. Do it without mentioning it to anyone.

Day 3: Obedience When God Speaks

Reading: James 1:22-25

Devotional: Hearing the voice of God is only half the equation. The other half is doing what He says. The story of Elevation Church in Mombasa is a powerful reminder that obedience to a divine prompting can change the trajectory of an entire ministry. Father's House did not give because it was financially easy. They gave because God said to. Obedience is not always logical. It does not always make sense on a spreadsheet. But when God speaks and we act, we step into a dimension of His provision that passive faith never reaches. The blessing is not just for the receiver. It is also for the one who obeys.

Reflection: Is there a prompting from God that you have been reasoning away rather than obeying?

Practical Application: Write down one thing you believe God has been asking you to do. Set a specific date this week to take the first step toward doing it.

Day 4: Nehemiah and the Courage to Ask the Right Questions

Reading: Nehemiah 1:1-11

Devotional: Nehemiah could have stayed comfortable in his position of influence and simply prayed from a distance. Instead, he asked how his people were doing, and that question broke his heart open. Brokenness before God is not weakness. It is the beginning of purpose. He mourned, he prayed, and then he moved. The sermon drew a sharp contrast between those who put others on a prayer list and those who, like Nehemiah, go and meet the need themselves. Compassion that stays in the heart and

never reaches the hands is incomplete. God is looking for people who are willing to be inconvenienced by the needs of others.

Reflection: When did you last allow someone else's suffering to genuinely move you to action rather than just sympathy?

Practical Application: Ask a specific person in your life this week how they are truly doing. Listen without rushing. Let their answer shape how you pray and respond.

Day 5: Resting in Him While Laboring in Faith

Reading: Hebrews 4:9-11

Devotional: Pastor Tim shared something deeply personal about laboring to enter rest. It sounds like a contradiction, but it is one of the most honest descriptions of the Christian life. We wrestle with our flesh, our fears, and our need for control, all so that we can finally release them and rest in God. The altar is not a courtroom. It is a place of intimacy. The emergency fund story, the Mombasa gift, the worship in the park, all of it points to one truth: when we stop striving to manage life on our own terms and trust Him fully, we find the rest He promised. He is not just your Savior. He wants to be your peace.

Reflection: What are you currently striving to control that God is inviting you to release to Him?

Practical Application: Spend ten minutes in silence before God today. Bring no agenda, no list, and no requests. Simply be present with Him and allow Him to love you.