

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Themes of Ephesians 4 and the Sermon by Pastor Paul Caseman

Day 1: You Are a Saint

Reading: Ephesians 4:11-13

Devotional: It is far easier to claim the title of sinner than to accept the title of saint. Yet the Apostle Paul addresses the church not as a gathering of the guilty, but as saints called to the work of ministry. Sainthood is not a status earned by perfection. It is a calling extended by grace. Martin Luther reminded us that we are simultaneously sinner and saint. Today, resist the urge to disqualify yourself from God's purposes. You have been equipped. You have been named. The question is not whether you are worthy. The question is whether you will answer.

Reflection: In what area of your life have you been slow to accept the identity God has given you?

Application: Write down one gift you possess and one specific way you can use it to serve others this week.

Day 2: Speaking the Truth in Love

Reading: Ephesians 4:14-16

Devotional: Paul warns the early church against those who use trickery and deceitful scheming to distort the truth. His remedy is not silence and it is not cruelty. It is truth spoken in love. These two things must never be separated. Truth without love becomes a weapon. Love without truth becomes flattery. The church is called to hold both together, even when the dominant culture rewards neither. In a world where truth is often shaped by those with the most power and influence, the follower of Jesus is called to a different standard. Speak honestly. Speak gently. Speak as one who belongs to Christ.

Reflection: Is there a truth you have been avoiding speaking, or one you have spoken without sufficient love?

Application: Identify one conversation you need to have this week. Prepare your heart to enter it with both honesty and compassion.

Day 3: What Would Jesus Do

Reading: Matthew 22:36-40

Devotional: When a young Jewish leader asked Jesus what was required for salvation, Jesus summarized the entire law in two commands: love God completely and love your neighbor as yourself. These words are not complicated. They are simply costly. In a cultural moment when the name of Jesus is sometimes attached to agendas of power, exclusion, and dominance, the church must return again and again to this simple measure. What would Jesus do? The answer is found not in political platforms or national symbols, but in the words Jesus himself spoke. Love God. Love neighbor. Begin there and do not stop.

Reflection: Where in your daily life do you find it most difficult to love your neighbor as yourself?

Application: Choose one person this week who is easy to overlook and extend a deliberate, specific act of kindness toward them.

Day 4: Justice, Kindness, and Humility

Reading: Micah 6:6-8

Devotional: The prophet Micah distills the entire call of God into three requirements: seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God. These are not suggestions offered to the spiritually advanced. They are the baseline of faithful living for every believer. Seeking justice means actively working toward fairness for those who are marginalized and forgotten. Loving kindness means making it a practice, not an impulse. Walking humbly means releasing the need to be powerful and trusting that God is enough. This ancient word from a minor prophet carries a thoroughly modern weight. The world still needs people willing to live this way.

Reflection: Which of the three requirements from Micah 6:8 is most difficult for you to practice consistently?

Application: Take one concrete step this week toward justice for someone in your community who has been overlooked or treated unfairly.

Day 5: Growing Up Into Christ

Reading: Ephesians 4:15-16

Devotional: Paul calls the church to grow up into Christ, with every part working properly so that the whole body is built up in love. Spiritual maturity is not measured by how long you have attended church or how many Scriptures you can recite. It is measured by how fully you participate in the life and mission of the body. Like Dolly Parton, who refused to abandon the forgotten in favor of comfort and status, or like John Lewis, who spent his life looking for good trouble, the mature believer is one who stays engaged, stays loving, and keeps building. Grow up. Show up. Do good.

Reflection: In what ways have you been a passive member of the body of Christ rather than an active, contributing part?

Application: Commit to one act of service within your church or community this month that moves you beyond your comfort zone and into genuine participation in the body of Christ.