

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on Themes from St. Luke's Testimonies of Faithfulness

Day 1: Worship That Walks Out the Door

Reading: Romans 12:1 -- Paul urges believers to offer their entire lives as a living sacrifice, describing this whole-life offering as true and proper worship.

Devotional:

One of the testifiers reminded us that worship does not end with the final song or the closing prayer. It is the love that walks out the door with us. True worship is not confined to a sanctuary or a set of songs. It is the posture of a heart turned toward God in every moment -- in grief, in fellowship, in service, and in ordinary Tuesday afternoons. When we sing with the same sincerity we serve, and serve with the same sincerity we sing, our entire lives become an act of praise. Consider today where your worship begins and where it tends to stop. Then ask God to extend it further.

Reflection: Where in your daily life does your worship fade? What would it look like to carry it with you into one specific relationship or responsibility this week?

Day 2: Community as the Body of Christ

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 -- Paul describes the church as a body in which every member belongs to every other member, so that when one suffers, all suffer, and when one is honored, all rejoice together.

Devotional:

One woman shared how, during her husband's long battle with Alzheimer's, church members visited, called, wrote letters, took him to lunch, and sat beside her in grief the evening he passed. This is not a program. This is the body of Christ functioning as it was designed. The church is not a building where individuals collect. It is a living community where burdens are shared and no one is left to carry life alone. The people who walked into a memory care facility

to sit with a man who may not have remembered their names were doing the work of the gospel. So can we.

Reflection: Who in your community is carrying something heavy right now? What is one concrete step you can take this week to walk alongside them?

Day 3: Hope Restored Through Faithful Mission

Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3 -- The prophet declares that God has sent him to bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim freedom to captives, and bestow a crown of beauty in place of ashes.

Devotional:

The story of Hope -- a woman who moved from addiction and incarceration through recovery, transitional housing, restored relationships, and eventually a seat on a nonprofit board -- is Isaiah 61 lived out in real time. The missions supported by a faithful congregation did not simply hand out resources. They participated in transformation. They fed the hungry, sheltered the displaced, and walked with the broken until beauty replaced ashes. We are reminded that we may never see the full arc of what our giving, volunteering, and praying sets in motion. But God does. Faithfulness in small acts of mission is never wasted.

Reflection: Which mission or act of service do you tend to overlook as too small to matter? How might God be using it in ways you cannot yet see?

Day 4: The Great Commission Crosses Every Language

Reading: Mark 16:15 -- Jesus instructs his followers to go into all the world and proclaim the good news to every creature.

Devotional:

One speaker reminded us that in order to preach the good news to all creation, we must communicate in ways that others can actually receive. St. Luke's Hispanic ministry is a direct expression of this truth. When a congregation creates space for worship in another language, it declares that the gospel belongs to everyone, not just those who already feel at home. It says that belonging is not conditional on cultural conformity. The Great Commission does not stop at a language barrier or a city limit. It extends to the 5,000 Spanish-speaking neighbors in one city, and to every community where people are far from home and longing to hear grace spoken in a familiar tongue.

Reflection: Who in your surrounding community might feel like an outsider in your church or neighborhood? What would it cost you to take one step toward genuine welcome?

Day 5: Great Is His Faithfulness Through Every Season

Reading: Lamentations 3:22-23 -- The writer, in the midst of profound suffering, declares that God's steadfast love never ceases and his mercies are new every morning, and that great is his faithfulness.

Devotional:

The hymn woven through the entire service was not chosen casually. Great Is Thy Faithfulness is a song born from a passage written in grief. The author of Lamentations was not writing from a place of comfort. He was writing from ruins. And yet he chose to declare that mercy is renewed daily. The testimonies shared across this service -- from a man grieving his brother, to a widow who lost her husband of over sixty years, to a teenager navigating a new place -- all echo the same conviction. God does not abandon. He provides strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, not because circumstances are easy, but because he is faithful.

Reflection: In what season of your life has God's faithfulness been most difficult to see? Looking back now, where do you recognize his mercies that were present even then?