

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide based on Pastor Aryn's sermon "The Gift of Being Needed", August 16, 2026

Theme: Belonging, Gifts, and the Body of Christ

Day 1: You Are Part of the Body Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 — Paul describes how the body of Christ is one unified whole made up of many distinct parts, all brought together by one Spirit. Devotional: It is easy to feel like an outsider, as though you do not quite fit or your presence does not matter. But Paul makes clear that belonging to the body of Christ is not earned or auditioned for. The Spirit places each person exactly where they are needed. You were not an afterthought. You were not a mistake. You were placed. Reflect today on the communities where God has placed you, and consider what it means to truly belong not because of what you bring, but because of who God is.

Day 2: Every Part Is Necessary Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:15-20 — Paul uses the image of the foot, the hand, the eye, and the ear to show that no part of the body can declare itself unnecessary or excluded. Devotional: There is a quiet temptation to compare your gifts to someone else's and conclude that yours do not measure up. But comparison is not a tool God uses to build his church. A foot that wishes it were a hand is still a foot, and the body still needs it. God does not make redundant parts. Whatever you bring, however ordinary it seems to you, fills a role that nothing else can fill. Ask God today to help you see your own gifts not through the lens of comparison, but through the lens of divine intention.

Day 3: Strength Found in Weakness Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 — Paul writes about how God's power is made complete in human weakness, and how weakness itself becomes a place where grace is most clearly seen. Devotional: Asking for help can feel like admitting defeat. Many people spend enormous energy maintaining the appearance of self-sufficiency, afraid that need will be mistaken for failure. But Paul discovered something that runs against every cultural instinct: weakness is not the enemy of God's work, it is often the doorway to it. When you acknowledge where you fall short, you create space for someone else to offer their gift, and you give glory to the God whose strength is never diminished by your limitations. Today, consider where pride may be keeping you from receiving what God is offering through another person.

Day 4: Honoring the Overlooked Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:22-25 — Paul teaches that the parts of the body that appear weakest or least honorable are actually the ones given the greatest care and dignity by God. Devotional: The world assigns value based on visibility, productivity, and influence. God works by a different measure entirely. Those who are overlooked, sidelined, or diminished by the world's standards are not overlooked by God. In fact, Paul argues that God gives special honor to those the world considers less important. This has profound implications for how the church treats the elderly, the struggling, the quiet, and the forgotten. Reflect today on who in your life may be waiting to be seen and honored. Consider how God might be calling you to extend dignity to someone the world has passed over.

Day 5: Suffering and Celebration Together Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:26 — Paul declares that when one part of the body suffers, every part suffers with it, and when one part is honored, every part shares in that joy. Devotional: True community is not merely a gathering of individuals who happen to share the same space. It is a living, breathing body in which the pain of one becomes the concern of all and the joy of one becomes the celebration of all. This kind of community requires presence, attention, and a willingness to be moved by someone else's experience. It is easier to stay at a comfortable distance. But Christ calls his body to something deeper, a mutual belonging that refuses to let any member suffer alone or celebrate alone. Today, ask God to show you who needs you to enter into their suffering or their joy with them.