

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on Themes from Exodus 19-20 and the Sermon on God's Ordering of Life

Day 1: From Slavery to Beloved

Reading: Exodus 19:1-6 -- God declares Israel His treasured possession, calling them a kingdom of priests and a holy nation set apart for His purposes.

Devotional: Before God gave a single commandment, He reminded the Israelites of what He had already done. He carried them on eagles' wings. He brought them to Himself. Identity before obligation. This is the order God establishes. You are not beloved because of what you produce or how faithfully you perform. You are beloved because God chose you. The world has spent centuries telling you otherwise, whispering that your worth is measured in output, achievement, and status. God's first word to His people is not a command. It is a declaration. You belong to Me. Let that settle into the places where you still feel like you have to earn your way into grace.

Reflection: Where in your life are you still trying to earn what God has already freely given you?

Practical Application: Write down three ways God has carried you this past year that had nothing to do with your own effort or merit.

Day 2: Reordering What Has Been Disordered

Reading: Exodus 20:1-7 -- God establishes Himself as the Lord who delivers, commanding that no other gods or idols take His place.

Devotional: The Israelites had spent four hundred years breathing the air of Egypt. Oppression had become ordinary. The gods of Egypt had become familiar. When God speaks the first commandments, He is not simply issuing legal restrictions. He is performing surgery on a disordered heart. He is saying, I am the only one who can actually save you, and everything else you have trusted in will eventually fail you. We are not so different. We construct our own

Egypt -- careers, finances, approval, comfort -- and we breathe that air so long we forget it is poison. God's first commandments call us back to the only foundation that holds.

Reflection: What has quietly moved into the place in your life that belongs to God alone?

Practical Application: Spend five minutes in silence today, asking God to reveal any idol that has taken root without your full awareness.

Day 3: The Gift of Rest

Reading: Exodus 20:8-11 -- God commands the Sabbath, grounding it in His own rest at creation and extending it to every person, servant, animal, and stranger in the community.

Devotional: The Sabbath commandment is an act of liberation. For people who had been worked to the bone and told their only value was in their productivity, God commands them to stop. Not as a reward for good behavior, but as a rhythm built into creation itself. Rest is not laziness. It is a declaration that you are more than what you make. Notice that the Sabbath is not only for you. It extends to your household, your workers, even your animals. God is dismantling a system that uses people up and throwing away the measuring stick the world handed you. Your worth was never in your output.

Reflection: Do you truly believe you are valuable apart from what you accomplish?

Practical Application: Identify one concrete way you can practice Sabbath rest this week, and protect that time as an act of trust in God's provision.

Day 4: Loving Your Neighbor as an Act of Worship

Reading: Exodus 20:12-17 -- God gives commandments governing human relationships, covering honor, life, fidelity, honesty, and the danger of coveting what belongs to another.

Devotional: The second half of the Ten Commandments turns outward. Having established who God is, God now addresses how His people treat one another. Honor those who are aging and no longer productive in the world's eyes. Do not take what belongs to your neighbor. Do not reduce your neighbor to an object of comparison or competition. These are not simply moral guidelines. They are a vision of community where every person carries the image of God and is treated accordingly. Coveting is the engine of a world that runs on scarcity and comparison. God's commandments call us into a different economy altogether, one rooted in dignity, honesty, and love.

Reflection: Is there a relationship in your life where you have allowed comparison or competition to replace genuine love?

Practical Application: Reach out today to someone you have neglected, dishonored, or quietly resented, and offer them one sincere act of kindness or acknowledgment.

Day 5: Blessed to Be a Blessing

Reading: Genesis 12:1-3 -- God calls Abram, promising to bless him so that he will become a blessing to all the families of the earth.

Devotional: Everything God teaches, from the eagles' wings of Exodus to the commandments at Sinai, points toward this: you are not blessed for your own sake alone. The tithe, the gleaning laws, the care for the widow and orphan and stranger -- these are all expressions of the same truth God spoke to Abraham. Blessing flows. It is not meant to pool and stagnate in one place. When we hold our resources, our time, our gifts with an open hand, we participate in God's economy of abundance. The act of giving is not about obligation. It is about trust -- trust that God has given enough, will give enough, and calls us to pass it along.

Reflection: In what areas of your life is God calling you to move from holding tightly to giving freely?

Practical Application: Before the week ends, make a specific, prayerful decision about one way you will give -- financially, with your time, or through a gift of service -- as an act of faith and trust in God's provision.