

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Unwrapped: The Greatest Gift

Day 1: Love as the Foundation of Every Gift

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 -- Paul declares that spiritual gifts, prophecy, and even radical sacrifice mean nothing apart from love.

Devotional: It is possible to do all the right things for all the wrong reasons. Paul's words cut through the noise of religious performance and ask a harder question than "What are you doing?" They ask "Why are you doing it?" Gifts without love are just noise -- loud, impressive, and ultimately empty. Before you serve today, pause and examine the motivation behind your actions. Are you giving out of obligation, habit, or genuine love for God and others? The gift matters far less than the heart that offers it. Let love be the foundation, not the afterthought.

Day 2: What Love Actually Looks Like

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 -- Paul describes love not as a feeling but as a series of deliberate, active choices rooted in patience, kindness, and endurance.

Devotional: Love, as Paul describes it, is not a warm emotion that rises and falls with circumstance. It is a commitment that holds steady under pressure. It does not demand recognition. It does not keep score. It does not collapse when tested. Think about the people you serve alongside -- at church, at work, at home. Where is love showing up in the way Paul describes it, and where is it absent? This passage is not a wedding poem. It is a daily standard. Ask God today to shape your character so that your love looks less like a feeling and more like a way of life.

Day 3: The Sacrifice Behind the Greatest Gift

Reading: John 3:16 -- God's love for the world is so complete that it moved Him to give His only Son so that all who believe would not perish but have eternal life.

Devotional: No one chooses suffering willingly. Yet Jesus moved toward the cross not because it was easy, but because love compelled Him. His sacrifice was not about what He stood to gain. It was entirely about what you stood to lose without it. This is the model for every act of service, every difficult conversation, every unglamorous task done in the name of faith. When love is the motivation, sacrifice becomes meaningful rather than merely painful. Today, consider one area of your life where you are being asked to give something costly. Ask God to replace reluctance with the same love that carried Christ to the cross.

Day 4: Growing Into Mature Love

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:11-12 -- Paul uses the image of childhood and adulthood to describe our current partial understanding of God and the full clarity that is yet to come.

Devotional: Spiritual maturity is not about having all the answers. It is about trusting the One who does. Right now, we see only in part. We understand in part. We serve in part. But God sees the whole picture -- the full tapestry of gifts, people, and purposes woven together for His kingdom. This should bring both humility and hope. Humility, because we do not always know best. Hope, because the story is not finished. Where in your life are you trying to force clarity that only God can provide? Surrender that need today and trust that He who knows you completely is guiding you faithfully.

Day 5: Love That Remains

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:13 -- Paul concludes that faith, hope, and love are the three things that endure, and that love is the greatest of them all.

Devotional: Spiritual gifts are temporary. Prophecy will end. Knowledge will pass away. But love remains. This is not a small claim. It means that the love you pour into a child, a neighbor, a congregation, or a stranger is not wasted -- it echoes into eternity. As you consider how God has gifted you and where He is calling you to serve, remember that the gift itself is not the point. Love is the point. When love is the driving force behind everything you do, even the smallest act of service carries eternal weight. Give your gifts freely, give them intentionally, and above all, give them with love.