5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on Themes from Community Church of Mount Pleasant

Day 1: The Gift of Justification

Reading: Romans 3:21-26

Devotional: You were in the courtroom. The verdict was guilty. And then Jesus stepped forward and said, "I've got this." Justification is not a reward for good behavior. It is a declaration from God the Father that because of what Christ did on the cross, you are counted as righteous. Not improved. Not better than yesterday. Righteous. This is the foundation of everything. Before you can grow, before you can change, before sanctification can begin its slow and steady work, you must first be declared not guilty. Rest today in that verdict. It has already been spoken over you.

Reflection Question: Have you truly received the gift of justification, or are you still trying to earn what has already been freely given?

Practical Application: Write down one area of your life where you have been striving to earn God's approval. Surrender it to Him in prayer today and receive His grace instead.

Day 2: The Long Walk of Sanctification

Reading: Philippians 2:12-13

Devotional: Sanctification is not a sprint. It is a long, slow, sometimes frustrating walk toward becoming more like Jesus. Paul did not tell us to work for our salvation. He told us to work it out, to live it out every day. The tension is real. Two steps forward, one step back. That is not failure. That is the journey. God is not standing at the finish line shaking His head in disappointment. He is walking beside you, working in you, producing what you cannot manufacture on your own. The goal is not perfection today. The goal is faithfulness today.

Reflection Question: Where in your life do you feel most stuck in the cycle of trying, failing, and giving up?

Practical Application: Identify one spiritual discipline, whether Scripture reading, prayer, or worship, that you have abandoned out of frustration. Commit to returning to it this week, not to earn anything, but to grow.

Day 3: The Battle Within

Reading: Romans 7:15-25

Devotional: Paul wrote the words that every honest believer has felt but few dare to say out loud. What I want to do, I do not do. What I do not want to do, that is exactly what I do. If the man who wrote most of the New Testament wrestled with this, you are in good company. Your spirit and your flesh are at war. They will be at war as long as you live on this earth. This is not an excuse to surrender to sin. It is an invitation to stop trusting in your own strength and start leaning on the Holy Spirit, who alone has the power to win that battle.

Reflection Question: What is the one persistent sin you have been carrying in secret, the one you keep hoping no one, including God, notices?

Practical Application: Bring that sin into the light today. Confess it to God honestly. If needed, find a trusted, mature believer with whom you can be accountable. Darkness loses its power when it is exposed.

Day 4: You Cannot Be Unborn

Reading: John 10:27-30

Devotional: Jesus spoke these words clearly and without condition. He said that He gives His people eternal life, that they will never perish, and that no one is able to snatch them out of His hand. That grip is not fragile. It does not loosen when you fail. It does not release when the enemy whispers that you were never really saved. Those whom God saves, God keeps. You did not pay for your salvation, so it is not yours to lose. You have been born again, and you cannot be unborn. When doubt comes, and it will, return to what God said, not to how you feel.

Reflection Question: Is your assurance of salvation built on your feelings and behavior, or on the promises of God?

Practical Application: Find three promises in Scripture about the security of salvation. Write them down and place them somewhere you will see them daily this week.

Day 5: Fruit That Only the Spirit Can Grow

Reading: Galatians 5:22-23

Devotional: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Read that list slowly. Now ask yourself honestly: how much of that can you produce on your own? The answer is none of it. Not the lasting kind. Not the kind that holds when life is hard and people are difficult and circumstances are painful. The fruit of the Spirit is not a checklist of behaviors to perform. It is the natural result of a life surrendered to the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is a partnership. Your role is surrender. His role is transformation. Stop trying to manufacture what only He can grow.

Reflection Question: Which fruit of the Spirit is most visibly absent in your life right now, and what might that be telling you about the state of your surrender to God?

Practical Application: Choose one fruit from Galatians 5:22-23 that you most need. Pray specifically each morning this week, asking the Holy Spirit to produce that quality in you through your circumstances, not around them.