

5-Day: Is This the End 1B Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Themes: Hope, Faith, Salvation, Suffering, and the Promise of Christ's Return

Day 1: You Are Not Ignorant of Hope

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 — Paul urges believers not to remain uninformed about those who have died, assuring them that because Jesus rose from the dead, those who belong to Him will also rise, and that all believers will ultimately be gathered together with the Lord forever.

Devotional:

There is a profound difference between knowing facts and believing truth. Paul wrote to a church that was grieving, confused, and afraid. His remedy was not a pep talk or a distraction. It was doctrine — solid, anchored, life-altering truth about what happens when a believer dies and what happens when Christ returns. Ignorance of this truth produces sorrow without comfort. Knowledge of this truth produces hope that holds steady even in the darkest seasons. You are not left without an answer. You are not left without a promise. The same God who raised Jesus from the dead has made a promise to you. Receive it. Believe it. Let it change how you face today.

Reflection: What fear or grief have you been carrying that the truth of Christ's return could begin to heal?

Application: Write down one worry about the future and then write beside it the specific promise from this passage that speaks directly to it.

Day 2: Graves Turned Into Gardens

Reading: John 11:25-26 — Jesus declares to Martha that He is the resurrection and the life, and that whoever believes in Him, even after dying, will live, and that whoever lives and believes in Him will never truly die.

Devotional:

The song the congregation sang speaks of God turning graves into gardens. That is not poetry alone. That is theology. Jesus stood outside the tomb of Lazarus and made a declaration that reordered the entire universe. Death does not have the final word. He does. Every grave that has received a believer is not a permanent address. It is a temporary resting place. The same voice that called Lazarus out will one day call every sleeping saint to rise. If you are walking through a season that feels like a grave — a broken relationship, a devastating diagnosis, a loss that has hollowed you out — hear the voice of Jesus speaking life into that place. He specializes in gardens where graves used to be.

Reflection: Where in your life does something feel dead or beyond recovery?

Application: Spend five minutes in prayer, specifically inviting Jesus into that place and asking Him to bring resurrection life to what feels lifeless.

Day 3: Suffering as Sacred Ground

Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 — Paul describes God as the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts believers in all their troubles so that they can comfort others with the same comfort they themselves have received from God.

Devotional:

The story of Dr. Elijah Sorotan and his wife Raylene is a living illustration of this passage. Their daughter's devastating cancer diagnosis did not destroy their ministry. It became the very soil from which a new one grew. Out of midnight prayers, out of hospital rooms, out of bone marrow transplants and rounds of chemotherapy, God birthed Child Life Romania. He took their suffering and turned it into a mission field. This is the pattern of God. He wastes nothing. Every tear, every sleepless night, every moment of helplessness is raw material in His hands. Your suffering is not a sign that God has forgotten you. It may be the very place He is preparing you to reach others.

Reflection: How has God used a painful season in your life to give you compassion or understanding for someone else?

Application: Reach out today to someone you know who is suffering. Offer your presence, your prayer, or simply a word that says they are not alone.

Day 4: Sowing Seeds You May Never See Harvest

Reading: Galatians 6:9 — Paul encourages believers not to grow weary in doing good, assuring them that at the proper time they will reap a harvest if they do not give up.

Devotional:

The pastor shared a vision of heaven where strangers approach you and say, "You do not know me, but I came to know the Lord because of a missionary your church supported." That image captures something essential about faithful giving, praying, and going. Most seeds are sown in obscurity. You may never see the child who heard the gospel at a bereavement camp in Romania and placed their faith in Christ. You may never meet the university student in Eastern Europe who learned to share the gospel and led someone to Jesus in a hospital corridor. But God sees every seed. He keeps every account. Do not grow weary. The harvest is coming.

Reflection: Are you tempted to stop giving, praying, or serving because you cannot see immediate results?

Application: Identify one area of faithful service or giving that has felt discouraging lately. Recommit to it for thirty days and trust God with the harvest.

Day 5: Ready for His Return

Reading: Matthew 24:42-44 — Jesus instructs His followers to keep watch because they do not know on what day their Lord will come, comparing the need for readiness to a homeowner who would have kept watch had he known when a thief was coming.

Devotional:

The question the pastor asked every week throughout this series is worth sitting with today: Are you ready? Not ready in the sense of having everything figured out or having lived a perfect life. Ready in the sense of having placed your faith in Jesus Christ — His life, His death, His burial, His resurrection. The comfort of 1 Thessalonians 4 is only comfort to those who belong to Him. The trumpet will sound. The dead in Christ will rise. Those who remain will be caught up. And then, as Paul put it, we will always be with the Lord. That single phrase — always with the Lord — is the answer to every fear, every uncertainty, every question about what comes next. Be ready. Not in dread, but in hope.

Reflection: If Christ returned today, what would you wish you had done, said, or surrendered?

Application: If you have never placed your faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ, do not wait. Speak to a pastor or a trusted believer today. If you are already in Christ, use this day to comfort someone else with these words, just as Paul commanded.