

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Theme: You Matter to God

Day 1: God Knows You by Name

Reading: Matthew 10:29-31

Devotional: It is easy to feel like a face in a crowd. With billions of people on this earth, the idea that God sees you specifically can seem hard to grasp. But Matthew 10 does not simply say God is aware of you in a general sense. He has numbered you. There is a difference between knowing a crowd exists and knowing each person within it by a specific number. You are not anonymous to God. You are catalogued, known, and seen. Today, resist the lie that you are overlooked. You are numbered, not forgotten.

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life have you been tempted to believe God does not notice you personally?

Practical Application: Write your name at the top of a blank page and beneath it list three specific things about yourself that you believe God knows and cares about.

Day 2: God Wants You

Reading: Ephesians 2:4-7

Devotional: Ephesians 2 makes a striking declaration. It does not say God loved you after you cleaned yourself up. It says that even while you were spiritually dead, God moved toward you with mercy and love. The phrase "even when" carries enormous weight. It means there was no version of you that had to exist before God decided you were worth pursuing. He did not wait for a better draft. He chose the real you, the flawed you, the struggling you. His love was not reactive. It was intentional. Today, receive that. God does not merely tolerate your presence. He desires it.

Reflection Question: What personal flaws or failures have made you feel unworthy of God's love?

Practical Application: Read Ephesians 2:4-7 slowly and replace the words "us" and "we" with your own name. Sit with that for a few minutes in silence.

Day 3: God Has a Purpose for You

Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10

Devotional: Salvation is a gift, not a wage. You cannot earn it, and you did not deserve it. But Ephesians 2 does not stop at the gift. It continues forward into purpose. The word translated "workmanship" in verse 10 carries the idea of a masterpiece, something crafted with intention and skill. You are not an accident of grace. You were saved and then shaped for specific good works that God prepared in advance. This means your life has a direction built into it by God himself. The question is not whether you have a purpose. The question is whether you are walking in it.

Reflection Question: What good works do you sense God has been preparing you for, even if you have not yet stepped into them?

Practical Application: Identify one practical way this week that you can serve someone around you, and do it without waiting for a perfect moment.

Day 4: God Hears You When You Pray

Reading: James 5:16-18

Devotional: James 5 points to Elijah as an example of powerful prayer, and then immediately clarifies that Elijah was a man just like us. That detail is not incidental. It is the entire point. The power behind his prayers was not found in Elijah himself. It was found in the God who heard him. This means the effectiveness of your prayers does not depend on how eloquent you are, how long you have been a believer, or how confident you feel when you kneel down. You are invited to pray not because you are extraordinary, but because God is. Come to him as you are.

Reflection Question: What has kept you from praying with consistency or confidence?

Practical Application: Set aside ten minutes today to pray out loud, even if your words feel imperfect. Speak honestly to God and trust that he is listening.

Day 5: God Is a Father Who Answers

Reading: Philippians 2:5-8 and James 5:16

Devotional: Philippians 2 describes what God gave up to come close to us. He set aside the full expression of his divine glory to take on human flesh, live among us, and die for us. That is the act of a Father who will not stay at a distance when his children need him. Just as a good earthly father drops everything when his child calls, your heavenly Father is never too occupied, never too distracted, and never annoyed by your need for him. He is not waiting for you to have it together before he picks up. He is already listening. Cry out to him today.

Reflection Question: How does knowing that God actively listens change the way you approach prayer?

Practical Application: Commit to one specific prayer you will bring to God each morning for the next 21 days. Write it down and return to it daily, trusting that the God who knows you, wants you, and hears you is at work.

Reflection Questions:

John emphasizes that we are not transitioning away from the truth that 'you matter' when we move into a season of prayer. How does understanding your worth before God shape the way you approach him in prayer?

Matthew 10:29-31 describes the hairs on your head as numbered, not merely counted. What does that level of specific, intentional knowledge from God mean for how you see yourself and your place in his creation?

Ephesians 2:8-10 teaches that we are saved by grace through faith and created for good works that God prepared in advance. How does knowing that your purpose was designed before you were born change the way you think about your daily life and decisions?

John draws a distinction between God knowing there are 8 billion people in the world and God knowing you specifically by number. In what areas of your life do you struggle to believe that God sees and knows you personally rather than just generally?

James 5:16 suggests that the one praying for another is the one who experiences healing. What does this reveal about the relationship between serving others and your own spiritual growth?

John says 'God's great works have never depended on extraordinary people -- they have always depended on normal people who trusted him'. Where in your own life have you disqualified yourself from being used by God because you felt ordinary or inadequate?

James 5:17 highlights that Elijah was a man with a nature just like ours, yet his prayers had dramatic, world-altering results. What does this tell us about the gap between how we view our prayers and how God views them?

John says 'the power of the prayer is not found in the person who prays, but in the God who hears'. How might this truth free you from the pressure of feeling like you need the right words or enough faith before you come to God?

Martin Luther reportedly said he had so much business that he could not get on without spending time in prayer every day. In what ways has busyness become an excuse in your own life, and what would it look like to treat prayer as essential rather than optional?

John uses the image of a father dropping everything to answer his child's call as a picture of how God responds when we pray. How does this image of God as an attentive, responsive Father challenge or comfort the way you currently relate to him?