

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on Acts 4

Day 1: The Evidence of a Changed Life

Reading: Acts 4:13-14

Devotional: When the religious leaders observed Peter and John, they could not explain away what they saw. These were ordinary men doing extraordinary things, and the only reasonable conclusion was that they had been with Jesus. That same standard applies today. A life genuinely shaped by time spent with Christ will produce visible, undeniable fruit. The question worth sitting with today is not whether you attend church or know the right language. The question is whether the people who know you best can look at your life and recognize that something beyond your own ability is at work in you.

Reflection Question: What would the people closest to you say is different about your life because of Jesus?

Practical Application: Identify one relationship in your life -- a family member, coworker, or friend -- and ask yourself honestly whether your interactions with that person reflect time spent with Christ.

Day 2: Buried and Raised to Walk in Newness

Reading: Romans 6:4

Romans 6:4 describes how believers are united with Christ in his death through baptism so that, just as he was raised, they too may walk in an entirely new kind of life.

Devotional: Baptism is not a finishing line. It is a starting line. It declares publicly that the old self has been buried and that a new life, empowered by the same resurrection that raised Christ from the dead, has begun. Many people accept forgiveness but continue living as though they are still in the

grave. They carry old identities, old habits, and old fears as though the resurrection never happened. The power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power available to you today. You do not have to keep living in what Christ has already buried.

Reflection Question: Are there areas of your life where you are still living as though you have not been raised to walk in newness?

Practical Application: Write down one habit, mindset, or pattern that belongs to your old life. Bring it before God in prayer today and ask him to replace it with something that reflects your new identity in Christ.

Day 3: Committing Your Works to the Lord

Reading: Proverbs 16:3

Proverbs 16:3 teaches that when a person entrusts their daily actions and efforts to God, he takes responsibility for bringing their plans to a stable and fruitful outcome.

Devotional: There is a profound freedom in releasing control. Proverbs 16:3 does not promise that God will establish your plans if you simply dream big or work hard. It promises that when you commit your works -- your everyday responsibilities, your ordinary moments, your faithful obedience -- to him, he will bring about something lasting. This is not passive living. It is purposeful surrender. It means showing up, doing the work, and trusting that God is the one who determines the outcome. The pressure to make everything happen on your own is a burden you were never designed to carry alone.

Reflection Question: In what area of your life are you straining to control outcomes that belong in God's hands?

Practical Application: Before beginning your work today, pause and verbally commit that work to God. Practice this each morning this week and observe how it changes your posture throughout the day.

Day 4: Faith That Shows and a Story That Speaks

Reading: James 1:2-4

James 1:2-4 teaches that trials of many kinds should be met with genuine joy because the testing of faith produces endurance, and endurance, when allowed to complete its work, leads to spiritual maturity and wholeness.

Devotional: Christianity does not promise a life free of difficulty. It promises that difficulty, when walked through with Christ, produces something real and lasting in you. The trials you face are not interruptions to your faith -- they are the very conditions in which your faith is proven genuine. The lame man in Acts 4 became living evidence that God is who he says he is. Your story, including the hard chapters, carries the same potential. When people see you walk through suffering with hope and steadiness, they encounter something they cannot easily dismiss. Your endurance is itself a form of witness.

Reflection Question: How has a past season of difficulty shaped your faith in a way that now serves as evidence of God's work in your life?

Practical Application: Share a brief account of how God brought you through a difficult season with one person this week. Do not minimize the struggle. Let the contrast between where you were and where you are speak for itself.

Day 5: Undeniable -- Living a Life That Cannot Be Argued Away

Reading: Acts 4:16-20

Acts 4:16-20 records the religious leaders acknowledging that a remarkable sign had occurred through Peter and John -- one that was evident to everyone in Jerusalem and impossible to deny. Despite this, they commanded the apostles to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, to which Peter and John replied that they could not stop speaking about what they had seen and heard.

Devotional: The most powerful argument for the reality of Jesus is a life that cannot be explained without him. The religious leaders in Acts 4 found themselves in an impossible position. The evidence was standing right in front of them, and they had nothing to say against it. That is the kind of life worth pursuing -- not a perfect life, but a transformed one. Not a life without failure, but a life where the trajectory is unmistakably shaped by the presence of Christ. When your life is changing, your faith is showing, and your story is speaking, the people around you will find it increasingly difficult to dismiss what God has done.

Reflection Question: If someone examined your life this week as evidence, what conclusion would they reach about who Jesus is?

Practical Application: Revisit the three evidences from this week: my life is changing, my faith is showing, and my story is speaking. Write a one-sentence honest assessment of where you currently stand in each area. Bring those assessments to God and ask him to make each one undeniable in the weeks ahead.

Reflection Questions:

The sermon describes how the religious leaders recognized that Peter and John had been with Jesus based on their boldness and the evidence of the healed man standing before them. What would people in your life point to as undeniable evidence that you have been with Jesus?

The pastor draws a contrast between behavioral modification and genuine transformation, arguing that true change flows from the inside out. In what ways have you experienced authentic inner transformation versus simply trying to change your outward behavior on your own?

Acts 4:13 describes Peter and John as uneducated and common men whose impact far exceeded their natural abilities. How does this challenge the tendency to rely on personal talent, education, or status rather than dependence on God?

The sermon suggests that if people cannot tell you have been with Jesus, it may be because you have not been spending regular time with him. How honest are you willing to be with yourself about the consistency and depth of your personal time with God?

Mickey makes the point that the healed man standing before the religious leaders gave them nothing to argue against. What would it look like for your life story to serve as evidence so compelling that those who deny God find it difficult to dismiss?

Romans 6:4 describes baptism as being buried with Christ and raised to walk in the newness of life. What old patterns, relationships, or identities are you still living in that God may be calling you to bury so that you can walk in that newness?

The sermon warns that some people accept Jesus but remain too comfortable in their old life, even building their identity around old struggles. What fears or attachments might be keeping you from fully embracing the new life God has made available to you?

Mickey identifies three evidences of time spent with Jesus: a changing life, a showing faith, and a speaking story. Which of these three is most visibly present in your life right now, and which one needs the most attention?

The sermon closes with the idea that the ultimate goal is for people to look at your life and say it is undeniable that you have been with Jesus. What would need to change in your daily rhythms and priorities for that to become true of you?

Mickey describes prayer as something that should lead to action rather than serving as a substitute for it. In what area of your life have you been praying for change but have yet to take the courageous step that God may already be calling you toward?