

Day 01

Day 02

Day 03

Day 04

Day 05



Based on the August 16, 2026
Sunday Morning Sermon

5-Day Bible Reading Plan
and Devotional Guide

Day 01

The God Who Speaks Creation Into Order

Reading: Genesis 1:1-31

Devotional:

God did not build the universe with tools. He spoke it into existence. Ten times in Genesis 1, the phrase "and God said" appears, and worlds obeyed. That same voice still speaks. The same creative authority that hung stars in place is the authority that speaks over your circumstances today. When life feels chaotic and disordered, remember that God specializes in bringing order out of formlessness. His word does not return empty. What area of your life needs to hear his voice today? Open your hands, quiet your heart, and let the God who sang creation into being sing over you.

Reflection: Where in your life do you most need to hear God speak order and clarity?

Application: Before reaching for your phone this morning, sit in five minutes of intentional silence and ask God to speak one word or phrase over your day.



Day 02

The Promise Keeper in the Valley

Reading: Romans 4:18-25

Devotional:

Abraham did not receive his promise on a mountaintop of easy circumstances. He received it in the valley of impossibility, where his own body and his wife's womb were long past the season of natural hope. Yet he did not waver. He believed that what God had promised, God was able to perform. Proverbs 13:12 reminds us that hope deferred can make the heart sick, and many of us know that sickness well. But between the promise and its fulfillment lives faith, trust, and refinement. It is Friday, and Sunday is coming. Hold the promise. God has not forgotten what he said to you.

Reflection: What promise has God spoken over your life that you have grown weary of waiting for?

Application: Write down one specific promise God has given you. Place it somewhere visible this week as a daily declaration of trust.



 Day 03

The Hard Reset of Salvation

Reading: Acts 2:36-47

Devotional:

Three thousand people in a single day were cut to the heart and asked a desperate, urgent question: what shall we do? Peter's answer was not a program or a self-improvement plan. It was repentance, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is not a gradual upgrade. It is a hard reset, a return to the manufacturer's original design for human life. Those early believers devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. They were not the same people. Neither are you, if you have truly encountered the risen Christ. The question worth sitting with today is whether your life still bears the marks of that reset.

Reflection: When did God last do something so real in your life that you could not explain it away?

Application: Share one specific thing God has done in your life with another person today. Do not wait for the perfect moment. Testimony builds faith in others.



 Day 04

The Empowering Presence of the Holy

Reading: Acts 19:1-20

Devotional:

The disciples Paul found in Ephesus were believers, but they were frozen. They had doctrine without power, belief without encounter. When Paul asked whether they had received the Holy Spirit, they did not even know such a thing was available. That is a sobering picture of much of modern Christianity. God never intended for his people to live on information alone. He sent his Spirit to be the living, active, indwelling presence that empowers ordinary people to do extraordinary things. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, as described in Romans 8:11, lives in every born-again believer. You are not operating on your own resources. Draw on what is already inside you.

Reflection: Are there areas of your spiritual life where you have been relying on knowledge instead of the active power of the Holy Spirit?

Application: Spend time today specifically inviting the Holy Spirit to lead your decisions, your conversations, and your responses to difficulty. Ask him to make his presence known in a tangible way.



Day 05

Resurrection Hope and the Life That Cannot Be Contained

Reading: John 11:17-27, 38-44

Devotional:

Jesus did not arrive before Lazarus died. He arrived after. Four days after. And yet he looked at a sealed tomb, at grief-soaked mourners, at every natural sign that it was too late, and he called life out of death anyway. That is who he is. He is not the God of almost or the God of too late. He is the God of the third day, the God who shows up in the middle of your Friday and declares that Sunday has not been cancelled. Whatever in your life feels sealed and finished, whatever hope has been buried, know that the same voice that called Lazarus out is still speaking. Death does not get the final word. He does.

Reflection: What situation in your life have you quietly stopped believing God can still redeem?

Application: Pray specifically and boldly over that situation today. Speak life over it out loud. Faith that stays silent rarely grows. Let your mouth come into agreement with what you are asking God to do.



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Bethany
CHURCH