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Based on the August 9, 2026
Sunday Morning Sermon

5-Day Bible Reading Plan
and Devotional Guide

Day
01

The God Who Comes Down to Us

Reading: John 3:16-17; Romans 5:6-8

Devotional:

Every other religion requires you to climb toward God, never certain you have reached him. But the God of Scripture descends. He does not wait at a distant summit for you to earn your way up. He comes into the dirt, into the village with no floor, into the life that feels like it has nothing to offer. The sermon reminded us that no other God loves like him. Where every other system demands enough goodness, enough effort, enough sacrifice, Jesus says you cannot be enough, so he became enough for you. Rest today in the scandalous downward movement of a God who calls you by name and considers your address worth visiting.

Reflection: Where in your life are you still trying to climb toward God rather than receiving what he has already brought down to you?

Application: Write down one area where you have been striving in your own strength. Surrender it in prayer today, acknowledging that Jesus has already met you there.



Day 02

Ears to Hear, Hearts to Obey

Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-6; James 1:22-25

Devotional:

In the Hebrew mindset, hearing and doing were inseparable. There was no category for passive learning. To truly hear God was to respond, to move, to act. The sermon illustrated this vividly: fingers stuffed in ears, voices raised in distraction, instructions completely missed. This is a portrait of the soul that resists the Word. The stiff-necked ox fights the yoke, pulling against the very direction that leads to fruitfulness. But the person with a beginner's mind, humble and teachable, comes not merely to gather information but to be changed by it. God's Word is not a lecture. It is a living encounter that demands a living response.

Reflection: Is there a command or truth in Scripture you have heard repeatedly but have not yet acted upon? What is keeping you from responding?

Application: Identify one specific instruction from God's Word you have been passive about. Take one concrete step of obedience this week, however small.



Day 03

Worship Beyond the Song

Reading: John 3:16-17; Romans 5:6-8

Devotional:

Worship is far larger than what happens during a Sunday morning set. Romans 12 describes offering your entire body as a living sacrifice, and calls this your spiritual act of worship. It means your Monday morning, your finances, your thought life, your willingness to be transformed rather than conformed, all of it is worship. The sermon pressed this point: if everyone in the church gave, served, worshiped, and prayed exactly as you do, would the body be healthy and empowered, or weak and listless? That question is not meant to produce guilt. It is meant to awaken a holy hunger. God is multidimensional, endlessly creative, and worthy of every expression you can offer him.

Reflection: In what areas of your daily life have you separated your ordinary routines from the act of worship?

Application: Choose one activity today, a meal, a commute, a work task, and consciously offer it to God as an act of worship, inviting his presence into it.



 Day 04

The Forgotten Weapon

Reading: 1 Corinthians 14:1-2, 14-15; Jude 1:20;
Ephesians 6:17-18

Devotional:

A soldier sent to the front line without a weapon is not a humble soldier. He is an unprepared one. The sermon used this image to describe believers who have not yet taken hold of the prayer gifts available through the Holy Spirit. Praying in the Spirit, whether in your native tongue under a sudden anointing or in the gift of tongues, is a weapon of spiritual warfare and a means of building yourself up in faith. It is communication directed to God himself, intimate and unfiltered. You are not praying to impress anyone. You are connecting to the source of all power, asking him to pray through you what your mind cannot yet articulate.

Reflection: How active is your prayer life in the Holy Spirit? Are you relying on your own words and wisdom, or are you inviting him to intercede through you?

Application: Set aside ten minutes today specifically for prayer in the Spirit. If you do not yet pray in tongues, ask God earnestly for the gift of prophecy or intercession, and pray with expectation that he will answer.



Day 05

Steps of Faith, Not Steps of Perfection

Reading: Hebrews 11:1, 6; Matthew 17:20;
1 Corinthians 4:20

Devotional:

Faith is not the absence of fear. It is moving forward despite it. Your heavenly Father does not stand over you shouting when you fall. He kneels down, holds out his hand, and says get up, let us try again. The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power, and that power is released not by those who have it all figured out, but by those who are willing to take the next step.

Reflection: What step of faith have you been postponing because you are afraid of failing or looking foolish?

Application: Take that step this week. Pray for someone who is sick. Share your faith with someone who needs to hear it. Give generously beyond what feels comfortable. Do it not in your own strength, but as an act of trust in the God who cheers every step you take.



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Bethany
CHURCH