

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the sermon this past week.

Day 1: Obedience in the Face of Opposition

Reading: Acts 5:17-42

Devotional: Peter and the apostles' bold declaration, "We must obey God rather than men," challenges us to examine our own obedience. In a world that often opposes God's truth, are we willing to stand firm? Reflect on areas in your life where you might be compromising your faith to please others. Remember, true obedience to God may bring opposition, but it also brings the power of His presence. Today, ask God for the courage to obey Him fully, even when it's difficult.

Day 2: The Power of Listening and Compassion

Reading: James 1:19-27

Devotional: The story of the executive listening to the customer's real need reminds us of the importance of truly hearing others. James urges us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak." How often do we rush to judgment or stick rigidly to our own ideas without truly understanding others? God calls us to listen with compassion, just as He listens to us. Today, practice active listening in your interactions. Seek to understand before being understood, and ask God to give you His heart of compassion for others.

Day 3: Standing Firm in Truth

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

Devotional: The apostles' unwavering commitment to God's truth, even in the face of persecution, exemplifies spiritual strength. Paul's description of the armor of God reminds us that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of evil. The belt of truth and the sword of the Spirit—God's Word—are crucial for standing firm. How grounded are you in God's truth? Today, commit to deepening your knowledge of Scripture. Ask God to help you discern truth from lies in our complex world.

Day 4: Courage in the Face of Fear

Reading: Joshua 1:1-9

Devotional: Just as the apostles faced fear but chose obedience, Joshua was called to lead with courage. God's repeated command to be "strong and courageous" reminds us that fear is natural, but faith is supernatural. What fears are holding you back from fully obeying God? Remember, God promises to be with you wherever you go. Today, identify one fear-induced area of disobedience in your life. Surrender it to God, asking for His strength to move forward in faith.

Day 5: Living as Faithful Witnesses

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16

Devotional: Jesus calls us to be salt and light in the world. The apostles' bold witness, even under threat, exemplifies this calling. Our obedience to

God is not just for our own benefit—it's a powerful testimony to others. How brightly is your light shining? Are you preserving and flavoring your environment with the gospel? Today, pray for opportunities to be a faithful witness. Ask God to help you live in such a way that others see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.