5 Day Devotional

Day 1: The Question That Changes Everything

Devotional

Every day, people around us are asking life's most important question in different ways. Through their searching eyes, their desperate choices, their late-night conversations, they're essentially asking: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" This isn't just an ancient lawyer's question - it's the cry of every human heart seeking purpose and meaning. Maybe you've asked this question yourself, or perhaps someone close to you is wrestling with it right now. The beautiful truth is that Jesus doesn't leave us guessing. He provides a clear answer that connects our relationship with God to our relationships with others. When we recognize this question in the people around us, we're given incredible opportunities to point them toward the answer that transforms everything. The question itself reveals our deep need for something beyond this temporary life - a longing for eternal significance that only God can satisfy.

Bible Verse

"One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: 'Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?'" - Luke 10:25 (New Living Translation)

Reflection Question

Who in your life might be asking this eternal question through their actions or words, and how can you be ready to share the answer?

Quote

Somebody, somewhere, by their actions, by their choices, by what they feel like their purpose is in life, near you, is around you, is saying loud and clear to you, what must I do to inherit eternal life?

Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to see the people around me who are searching for eternal life. Give me wisdom and courage to share Your truth with them in love.

Day 2: Love That Cannot Be Separated

Devotional

Jesus answered the eternal question with stunning simplicity: love God completely and love your neighbor as yourself. But here's what many miss - these aren't two separate commands. They're inseparably connected, like two sides of the same coin. You cannot truly love God while ignoring the needs of people around you. This connection challenges our comfortable Christianity that wants to worship God in isolation from messy human relationships. When we claim to love God but walk past hurting people, we reveal the shallow nature of our faith. True love for God always flows into love for others. It's impossible to have a genuine relationship with our heavenly Father while neglecting His children who are struggling right beside us. This truth should both convict and encourage us - convict us when we've compartmentalized our faith, and encourage us that every act of love toward others is actually an expression of our love for God.

Bible Verse

"Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind. And, Love your neighbor as yourself.'" - Luke 10:27 (New Living Translation)

Reflection Question

How does understanding the connection between loving God and loving others change the way you view your daily interactions with people?

Quote

There's got to be this connection between our love for God and our love for others.

Prayer

Father, help me understand that my love for You is demonstrated through my love for others. Make my faith authentic and whole.

Day 3: The Unexpected Hero

Devotional

In Jesus' parable, the hero wasn't who anyone expected. The priest and Levite - the religious professionals - passed by the wounded man, perhaps too busy with important religious duties. But a Samaritan, someone the Jewish audience despised, stopped to show extraordinary compassion. This twist would have shocked Jesus' listeners and challenges us today. Sometimes those we least expect demonstrate the greatest love, while those who should know better fail to act. The Samaritan didn't just offer a quick prayer or throw some money at the problem - he got personally involved, tended wounds, and provided complete care. His actions reveal what true neighborly love looks like: it's costly, personal, and sacrificial. This story forces us to examine our own hearts. Are we like the religious leaders, too busy with church activities to help those in need? Or are we willing to be the unexpected hero who stops, cares, and acts with compassion regardless of social barriers or personal inconvenience?

Bible Verse

"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him." - Luke 10:33 (New Living Translation)

Reflection Question

What barriers (social, racial, economic, or personal) might be preventing you from showing compassion to someone who needs help?

Quote

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was. And when he saw him, he took pity on him.

Prayer

Lord, break down the barriers in my heart that prevent me from loving others. Help me see people through Your eyes of compassion.

Day 4: The Mirror of Our Hearts

Devotional

The parable of the Good Samaritan serves as a mirror, reflecting the true condition of our hearts. God measures our love for Him by our loving actions toward people in ditches around us. This is both sobering and clarifying. We can sing worship songs, attend every church service, and quote Scripture, but if we consistently walk past hurting people, our love for God is questionable. The uncomfortable truth is that there are plenty of people in ditches around us - those robbed by life's circumstances, struggling with addiction, facing financial crisis, or drowning in loneliness. Yet there aren't nearly enough Good Samaritans to go around. Each person we encounter who is hurting becomes a test of our faith. Will we be like the priest and Levite, too busy or too important to stop? Or will we be like the Samaritan, willing to inconvenience ourselves for the sake of love? Our actions toward that person in the ditch reveal the authenticity of our love for God.

Bible Verse

"Realize that God is measuring my love for him by my loving actions toward the man in the ditch." - 1 John 4:20 (New Living Translation)

Reflection Question

What does your response to hurting people around you reveal about the depth of your love for God?

Quote

Realize that God is measuring my love for him by my loving actions toward the man in the ditch.

Prayer

God, let my actions toward others be a true reflection of my love for You. Help me see every hurting person as an opportunity to demonstrate Your love.

Day 5: Jesus: Our Ultimate Good Samaritan

Devotional

While we're challenged to be Good Samaritans to others, we must first recognize that Jesus is the ultimate Good Samaritan to us. When we were spiritually dead, robbed by sin and left hopeless, Jesus didn't pass by. He came down into our pit, took us by the hand, and lifted us out. He provided everything necessary for our rescue and restoration. The path to eternal life is clear: admit that you've sinned, believe in Jesus, and confess Him as Lord. This isn't just intellectual agreement - it's a life-transforming relationship that changes how we live. When we truly understand what Jesus has done for us, gratitude compels us to follow His example. We want to repay what He did by loving others the way He loved us. Following God means knowing His Word and living it out daily. As we experience God's presence and feel Him around us, we're motivated to be His hands and feet to a hurting world. Today, you can proudly say Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior and live as His child.

Bible Verse

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." - Romans 10:9 (New Living Translation)

Reflection Question

How does understanding Jesus as your Good Samaritan motivate you to be a Good Samaritan to others?

Quote

Jesus walked by, he got down into the pit and he took me by the hand and he lifted me out of the pit. And he wants to do the same for you today.

Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for being my Good Samaritan and rescuing me from sin. Help me live out my gratitude by loving others as You have loved me.