



5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the [sermon from this weekend](#). We will explore the main themes of following Jesus, identifying barriers that hinder our faith, and learning to trust God more fully in our lives.

Day 1

Mark 8:1-10

1 In those days there was again a large crowd, and they had nothing to eat. He called the disciples and said to them, 2 "I have compassion on the crowd, because they've already stayed with me three days and have nothing to eat. 3 If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, and some of them have come a long distance."

4 His disciples answered him, "Where can anyone get enough bread here in this desolate place to feed these people?"

5 "How many loaves do you have?" he asked them.

"Seven," they said. 6 He commanded the crowd to sit down on the ground. Taking the seven loaves, he gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people. So they served them to the crowd. 7 They also had a few small fish, and after he had blessed them, he said these were to be served as well. 8 They ate and were satisfied. Then they collected seven large baskets of leftover pieces. 9 About four thousand were there. He dismissed them. 10 And he immediately got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

As we begin this devotional journey, let us reflect on the first barrier to following Jesus: fixing our eyes on problems rather than the problem solver. In Mark 8, we see a crowd of 4,000 that had been with Jesus for three days. They faced the problem of hunger in a desolate place. Yet, Jesus, the compassionate problem solver, performed the miracle of feeding them with just seven loaves and a few fish. This teaches us that in our moments of despair, we often focus so heavily on our issues that we overlook Jesus' ability to provide. Instead of lamenting our challenges, we should bring them to Him, the one who is always with us and can turn our situations around.

In our daily lives, let us practice turning our focus from our problems to the promises of Jesus. Trusting Him to be our source of hope and nourishment in both spiritual and physical needs can transform our faith walk significantly. Remember, just as Jesus asked His disciples how many loaves they had, He also invites us to bring our limited resources to Him for miraculous use.

- What problems are currently dominating your thoughts?
- How can you remind yourself to focus on Jesus instead?
- What step can you take to deepen your trust in Him today?

- Ask God to help you see beyond your circumstances to His faithfulness.
- Pray for clarity in understanding His provision in your life.

Notes:

Day 2

Mark 8:11-13

11 The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, demanding of him a sign from heaven to test him. 12 Sighing deeply in his spirit, he said, "Why does this generation demand a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation." 13 Then he left them, got back into the boat, and went to the other side.

In today's devotional, we confront the second barrier: demanding more proof from Jesus. The Pharisees questioned Jesus after He performed miracles, seeking another sign rather than recognizing the evidence right in front of them. This reflects a heart of skepticism that can plague any of us. Instead of approaching Jesus with open hearts, they remained resistant and focused on needing more to believe fully.

As followers of Christ, it's essential to nurture curiosity rather than skepticism. We should seek understanding and not place demands on Him in ways that stem from doubt. When we trust Jesus for who He truly is without requiring further evidence, our faith becomes anchored, allowing us to experience His fullness and abundance. Let us cultivate a heart posture that is inclined to belief and understanding through the relationship we build with Him.

- In what areas of your life have you demanded proof from God?
- How have doubts affected your relationship with Jesus?
- What can you do to foster a more curious spirit in your walk with faith?

- Ask for grace to trust God's plans without needing all the answers right now.

- Pray for understanding and wisdom in areas where you feel uncertain.

Notes:

Day 3

Mark 8:14-21

14 The disciples had forgotten to take bread and had only one loaf with them in the boat. 15 Then he gave them strict orders: "Watch out! Beware of the leaven[a] of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." 16 They were discussing among themselves that they did not have any bread. 17 Aware of this, he said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact you have no bread? Don't you understand or comprehend? Do you have hardened hearts? 18 Do you have eyes and not see; do you have ears and not hear?[b] And do you not remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of leftovers did you collect?"

"Twelve," they told him.

20 "When I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many baskets full of pieces did you collect?"

"Seven," they said.

21 And he said to them, "Don't you understand yet?"

Today we dive into the third barrier: forgetting too quickly. The disciples, despite witnessing Jesus' miracles, forgot about the provisions made when they worried about lacking bread in the boat. Jesus takes this moment to remind them of His faithfulness with the leftovers from previous miracles. How often do we, too, forget what God has done in our lives, focusing instead on our current predicaments?

Remembering God's past faithfulness helps us trust Him for our present and future needs. By keeping track of the ways He has shown us His love and provision, we can build a strong foundation of trust, knowing that He will act again. Let us be intentional in recognizing and recalling His goodness so that when new challenges arise, we will be fortified by our memories of His faithfulness.

- What has God provided for you in the past that you need to remember today?
- How does reflecting on God's faithfulness change your perspective on current challenges?
- What steps can you take to create reminders of God's goodness in your life?
- Pray for a heart that remembers and acknowledges God's past mercies.
- Ask for help to build a habit of gratitude in your daily life.

Notes:

Day 4: Embracing Humble Curiosity

Mark 8:14-16

14 The disciples had forgotten to take bread and had only one loaf with them in the boat. 15 Then he gave them strict orders: "Watch out! Beware of the leaven[a] of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." 16 They were discussing among themselves that they did not have any bread.

Reflection: Jesus warns against the leaven of the Pharisees, which represents unbelief and stubbornness. Are you approaching your faith with humble curiosity or stubborn demands?

Prayer: God, cultivate in me a heart of humble curiosity. Help me to seek You earnestly and be open to Your truth. Amen.

Notes:

Day 5: Remembering God's Faithfulness

Mark 8:17-21

17 Aware of this, he said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact you have no bread? Don't you understand or comprehend? Do you have hardened hearts? 18 Do you have eyes and not see; do you have ears and not hear?[b] And do you not remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of leftovers did you collect?"

"Twelve," they told him.

20 "When I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many baskets full of pieces did you collect?"

"Seven," they said.

21 And he said to them, "Don't you understand yet?"

Reflection: The disciples forgot how Jesus had provided for the multitudes. Reflect on how quickly you forget God's past faithfulness. Consider starting a spiritual remembrance journal.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, remind me of Your faithfulness. Help me to remember and recount Your goodness in my life. Amen.

Notes:
