



5 Day Devotional

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into [the sermon from this weekend](#). We will explore the themes of serving like Jesus, understanding God's love, and the importance of living in community, all while reflecting on how these principles can transform our daily lives.

Day 1

James 1:22-24

22 But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face[a] in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was.

The journey of faith is often marked by the challenge of living out what we believe. In James 1:22-24, we are reminded that being a hearer of the Word is not enough; we must be doers as well. This first day of our devotional emphasizes the importance of applying our faith to our daily actions. We can easily become complacent, allowing our spiritual growth to stagnate when we fail to translate knowledge into practice.

Consider how Jesus exemplified this in His ministry. He didn't merely teach His followers about love and humility; He demonstrated it through His actions, even washing His disciples' feet. In the same way, we are called to embody our faith by serving others. Reflecting on our actions and intentions allows us to bridge the gap between belief and practice and embodies the true essence of living out our faith.

- What actions can I take this week to serve others in my community?
- How can I ensure that my faith translates into my daily life beyond Sunday mornings?
- In what areas do I need to grow in being a doer of the Word?

- Pray for God to reveal opportunities to serve those around you.
- Ask for strength to overcome complacency in your spiritual walk.

Notes:

Day 2

1 John 4:9-12

9 God's love was revealed among us[a] in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice[b] for our sins. 11 Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in[c] us and his love is made complete in us.

Today's devotional focuses on the foundational truth that we love because God first loved us. In 1 John 4:9-12, we see that understanding God's love for us empowers us to love others genuinely. Many of us experience moments when our capacity to love is tested, especially when faced with difficult situations or challenging relationships. It is essential to remember that our ability to give love comes from receiving it.

As we reflect on our own experiences of God's love, we become vessels through which His love can flow to others. This mystery of love connects us, allowing us to stand unwavering in the face of adversity and extend grace, mercy, and understanding to those who cross our paths. Acknowledging our identity as beloved children of God can radically shift how we interact with others, leading us to act with compassion and care.

- How can I better understand and receive God's love in my life?
- In what ways can I express that love to others daily?
- What past grievances or challenges do I need to forgive to embody God's love?
- Pray for a deeper understanding of God's unconditional love for you.
- Seek guidance on how to express that love to someone in your life.

Notes:

Day 3

Acts 2:42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. 44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number[a] those who were being saved.

On this third day, we explore the beauty of community highlighted in Acts 2:42-47. The early church exemplified what it means to be part of a loving and supportive community that encourages growth through shared experiences of faith. This passage demonstrates a lifestyle of fellowship, prayer, and mutual support. They did not simply gather; they engaged deeply with one another, celebrating joys and sharing burdens.

Living in community is not merely about attendance; it involves active participation in one another's lives. Each member has unique gifts and perspectives that contribute to the whole, building a strong foundation for spiritual growth. As we engage in community, we witness the transformative power of living in unity and collaboration, drawing strength from one another in our spiritual journeys.

- How can I be more intentional about engaging with my church community?
- In what ways can I use my gifts to serve others in our community?
- What steps can I take to deepen my relationships with fellow believers?
- Pray for the unity and growth of your faith community.
- Seek the Lord's guidance on how to actively contribute to the community.

Notes:

Day 4

Matthew 25:35-40

35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me; I was in prison and you visited me."

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or without clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?’ 40 “And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

As we reach the fourth day of our devotional, we are reminded of the call to serve others as exemplified in Matthew 25:35-40. Jesus teaches that serving those in need is as if we are serving Him directly. This powerful reminder encourages us to see Christ in every person we encounter. It challenges us to recognize the dignity and worth of each individual, making service an act of worship in itself.

When we engage in meaningful service, we reflect the heart of God. It's about extending kindness, offering help, and meeting genuine needs. This week, as we prepare for VBS and engage with the children, we have a wonderful opportunity to embody this principle of service. Our actions can significantly impact their understanding of God's love and care for them.

- What areas of my life desperately need more acts of service?
- How do I need to adjust my perspective to see Christ in others?
- Who in my life is in need of support or love that I have been overlooking?
- Pray for opportunities to serve those around you, big or small.
- Ask God to open your eyes to see His presence in others.

Notes:

Day 5

Romans 12:4-8

4 Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, 5 in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. 6 According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's[a] faith; 7 if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; 8 if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.

On the final day of our devotional, we will contemplate the diversity of gifts within the body of Christ, as discussed in Romans 12:4-8. Each member plays a vital role, and together, we create a vibrant community that reflects God's kingdom. Embracing the unique gifts that God has given

each of us enables the church to function effectively and fulfills His purposes within our community.

As we conclude this week's focus, reflect on how you can actively engage with your gifts, contributing to the life of the church. By recognizing that no role is too small or significant, we inspire one another to use our abilities for God's glory. Living together as one body encourages deeper connections and allows us to witness the transformative work of Christ through us.

- What unique gifts has God bestowed upon me that I can use for His purpose?
- How can I encourage and support others in using their gifts?
- In what ways can I ensure that I am an active, integral part of my church community?
- Pray for a clear understanding of your gifts and how to use them for God's purpose.
- Seek ways to encourage others to use their gifts within the community.

Notes:
