5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on 1 Peter 5 and the Theme of Faithful Shepherding

Day 1: The Call to Shepherd

Reading: 1 Peter 5:1-4

Devotional: Shepherding is not a title — it is a way of life. Peter, writing as a fellow elder, reminds leaders that their authority flows not from position but from proximity to the Chief Shepherd himself. To shepherd is to be present among the flock, to know their struggles, to carry their burdens willingly. But this call does not belong to leaders alone. Every believer is called to care for those around them. Consider today who God has placed in your immediate circle. Are you shepherding them well? Are you close enough to know their needs? Pray for a heart that smells like sheep.

Day 2: Willing, Eager, and Exemplary

Reading: 1 Peter 5:2-3; Romans 12:8

In Romans 12:8, Paul describes the one who leads as one who should do so with diligence and earnestness. Peter echoes this in his instruction that elders lead not under compulsion but willingly, not for personal gain but eagerly, not as those who lord authority over others but as living examples. Devotional: Examine your own motivations today. In whatever role of influence or responsibility God has given you — as a parent, a coworker, a friend, a church member — are you serving willingly or reluctantly? Eagerness in service is a sign that the heart has been captured by love for God and love for others. Ask God to renew your willingness.

Day 3: The Character That Qualifies

Reading: 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9

Devotional: God does not call the qualified — he qualifies the called. Yet Scripture is clear that those who lead the church must pursue a life marked by character above all else. The

qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 are not a checklist of perfection but a portrait of a person actively surrendering every area of life to the lordship of Christ. Self-control, gentleness, sound doctrine, and a well-ordered household all point to one thing: a life that takes God seriously in private, not just in public. Where is your private life today? Invite God into every corner of it.

Day 4: Protecting the Flock from False Teaching

Reading: Titus 1:9; Acts 20:28-31

In Acts 20:28-31, Paul warns the elders of Ephesus to be on guard against those who would distort the truth and draw disciples away. The elder's role as a protector of sound doctrine is not optional — it is essential. Devotional: False teaching rarely announces itself. It often sounds reasonable, comforting, and culturally appealing. This is why grounding yourself in Scripture is not merely a spiritual discipline but a form of protection. You cannot recognize what is false unless you are deeply familiar with what is true. Commit today to reading God's Word not just for comfort but for discernment. Ask the Holy Spirit to sharpen your ability to recognize truth.

Day 5: Submitting to Leadership, Trusting God

Reading: 1 Peter 5:5-7; Hebrews 13:17

Hebrews 13:17 calls believers to respect and submit to their spiritual leaders, recognizing that those leaders will give an account to God for how they have cared for the flock. Peter adds to this in 1 Peter 5:5-7 by connecting humility before human leadership with humility before God himself, and by reminding believers that God cares for those who cast their anxieties on him. Devotional: Submission to godly leadership is not weakness — it is wisdom. It reflects trust that God works through imperfect people to accomplish his perfect purposes. If you carry wounds from past leadership failures, bring them honestly before God today. He sees them. He cares. And he is the Chief Shepherd who never fails his flock.