5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Jesus Greater Than Everything: A Guide to Salvation and Submission

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Day 1: The Historical Reality of Who Jesus Is

Reading: John 1:1-18 — The opening of John's Gospel establishes that the Word, Jesus, existed before creation, was with God, and was God himself, becoming flesh and dwelling among humanity.

Devotional: It is easy to reduce Jesus to a comforting idea or a moral framework, but Scripture insists he is a historical, physical, and divine reality. He walked roads, breathed air, and looked people in the eye. The same Jesus who existed before time entered time for you. Before you wrestle with what he demands of your life, anchor yourself in who he actually is. Your faith is not built on sentiment. It is built on a person. Ask yourself today: do I relate to Jesus as a real and present person, or as an abstract concept I have grown comfortable with?

Reflection Question: In what ways have you allowed culture or familiarity to soften or distort your understanding of who Jesus truly is?

Practical Application: Write down three specific things you believe about Jesus based on Scripture, not on feelings or cultural assumption. Let those truths anchor your prayers this week.

Day 2: The Claims of Christ Demand a Response

Reading: John 10:22-33 — Jesus declares that he and the Father are one, a claim so bold that the religious leaders around him immediately understood it as a declaration of divinity.

Devotional: Jesus did not leave room for comfortable neutrality. His claims about himself were either true or they were the words of a deceiver. There is no middle ground that allows us to admire him as simply a wise teacher while rejecting his authority as Lord. The religious leaders in this passage understood exactly what he was saying, even if they refused to believe it. The question is not whether Jesus made these claims. The question is what you will do with them. A claim this significant cannot be quietly filed away. It requires a response from every person who encounters it.

Reflection Question: Have you truly reckoned with the full weight of what Jesus claimed about himself, or have you settled for a version of him that makes fewer demands?

Practical Application: Read through one of the "I am" statements of Jesus in John's Gospel today. Sit with it for several minutes and ask God to make the reality of that claim more vivid to you.

Day 3: The Grace of God's Salvation

Reading: John 3:14-21 — Jesus explains that God sent his Son not to condemn the world but so that the world might be saved through him, and that belief in him is the dividing line between condemnation and eternal life.

Devotional: The love of God expressed in sending Jesus is not a passive or sentimental love. It is a love that moves, sacrifices, and rescues. God did not observe humanity's condition from a distance and offer encouragement. He entered the darkness himself and became the light. John 3:16 is perhaps the most quoted verse in Scripture, but its surrounding verses deepen its meaning considerably. Salvation is not merely a transaction that secures your eternal destination. It is an encounter with a God who loves you enough to give everything. Let that love be the foundation from which everything else in your faith grows.

Reflection Question: Do you experience God's salvation primarily as a legal transaction, or as a living and ongoing relationship with a God who pursued you at great cost?

Practical Application: Spend time today in prayer simply thanking God for his salvation. Do not ask for anything. Let gratitude be the entire focus of that time.

Day 4: The Call to Submission

Reading: Matthew 16:24-27 — Jesus tells his disciples that following him requires denying oneself, taking up the cross, and that whoever loses his life for Christ's sake will find it.

Devotional: The cross Jesus calls us to carry is not a metaphor for minor inconvenience. It is a call to the death of self-rule. Jesus issued this command knowing he would literally carry his own cross and die on it. His words were not abstract. They were a preview of what love in its fullest form looks like. Many who sincerely believe in Jesus for salvation still resist this call to submission, keeping themselves on the throne while allowing Jesus to occupy a place in their lives rather than the throne of their lives. The grace of God does not diminish this call. It is precisely what makes it possible to answer it.

Reflection Question: In which specific areas of your life are you still sitting on the throne, making decisions as though Jesus is a consultant rather than your King?

Practical Application: Identify one area of your life where you have been resistant to full submission. Bring it before God in prayer today and ask for the grace to surrender it genuinely.

Day 5: Living the Definition God Gives

Reading: Matthew 22:36-40 — When asked which commandment is greatest, Jesus answers that loving God with all of one's heart, mind, and soul is first, and that loving one's neighbor as oneself is second, and that all of Scripture rests on these two commands.

Devotional: God's definition of Jesus greater than everything is not simply a theological position to hold. It is a life to be lived. Loving God with everything you are flows naturally from understanding what he has done for you. And loving your neighbor as yourself is not a separate obligation added on top. It is the outward expression of a heart that has genuinely been transformed by grace. Salvation and submission are not two unrelated truths. They are the same truth viewed from different angles. When the love of Christ truly takes the throne of your life, the way you treat the people around you will begin to change. That is the mark of a life where Jesus is genuinely greater than everything.

Reflection Question: Does the way you treat the people closest to you reflect a life where Jesus holds the throne, or does it reveal that self still governs more than you have admitted?

Practical Application: Choose one person in your life this week and intentionally serve them in a specific and practical way, not to be seen, but as an act of worship to the King who gave everything for you.