5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on 1 Peter 3:18-22 and Themes of Salvation, Suffering, and Testimony

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Day 1: Christ Suffered So You Could Stand

Reading: 1 Peter 3:18 -- Peter reminds readers that Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous dying in place of the unrighteous, so that he might bring us near to God.

Devotional: Suffering is disorienting. When hardship arrives, the instinct is to question whether God is present or whether faith is worth the cost. Peter writes to people who are suffering precisely because they follow Jesus, and his answer is not a formula or a strategy -- it is a person. Christ suffered. Not abstractly, not symbolically, but in flesh and blood, in real pain, for real sinners. He did not suffer because he deserved it. He suffered because you did, and he took your place. Today, if you are carrying something heavy, do not carry it alone. Bring it to the One who already bore the weight of sin itself and came out the other side alive.

Reflection: What suffering are you currently facing that you have not yet brought honestly before God?

Application: Write down one specific burden you are carrying this week. Spend five minutes in silence, placing it before Christ, and ask him to remind you that his suffering on your behalf was not in vain.

Day 2: Victory That Echoes Through Eternity

Reading: 1 Peter 3:19-20 -- Peter describes Christ proclaiming something to spirits held in confinement, connecting this moment to the days of Noah when God's patience waited while the ark was prepared.

Devotional: The victory of Christ was not a quiet event. It was a declaration that rang through every corner of creation, including the darkest ones. When Jesus conquered death, he did not simply make an announcement to those who were watching. His triumph reached back through time, confronting every force that had ever placed its hope in the defeat of God. This matters for

your daily life. The enemy you face -- fear, shame, addiction, despair -- has already heard the news. Christ has won. You are not fighting toward a victory that is uncertain. You are standing in one that is already secured. Walk today as someone on the winning side.

Reflection: In what area of your life are you living as though the outcome is still in doubt?

Application: Identify one lie you have been believing about your circumstances. Write it down, then write beside it a truth from Scripture that directly contradicts it. Return to that truth every time the lie resurfaces today.

Day 3: What Noah Knew That We Sometimes Forget

Reading: Hebrews 11:7 -- The writer of Hebrews describes how Noah, warned about things not yet seen, acted in reverent faith by building the ark, and through that faith he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Devotional: Noah did not build the ark because he could see the rain. He built it because he trusted the God who told him it was coming. For years, he worked while others mocked. He had no visible evidence to point to, no storm on the horizon, no rising water. He had only the word of God. And that was enough. Peter holds Noah up not as a model of perfect theology but as a model of active, obedient faith. Saving faith does not sit still. It responds. It moves. It builds arks and steps into water and says yes to God even when the world calls it foolish. What is God asking you to do that requires you to move before you can see the outcome?

Reflection: Where in your life is God asking you to act on his word before circumstances confirm it?

Application: Take one step of obedience today in an area where you have been waiting for certainty before moving. It does not have to be large. It has to be faithful.

Day 4: Salvation Received, Salvation Announced

Reading: Acts 2:37-39 -- After hearing Peter preach, the crowd asked what they should do, and Peter called them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, promising that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Devotional: Notice how little time passes between hearing the gospel and responding to it in Acts 2. There is no waiting period, no qualification course, no checklist of theological mastery. There is a heart cut open by truth, a question asked in desperation, and a call to repent and be baptized. Salvation is received in faith, but it is meant to be announced. Baptism is not a

graduation ceremony for those who have finally learned enough. It is the first public declaration of what God has already done. If you have trusted Christ and have not yet been baptized, today is a good day to ask why you are waiting. The gospel does not call us to quiet, private faith. It calls us to testimony.

Reflection: Have you ever allowed fear of public declaration to keep you from a step of obedience God was calling you toward?

Application: If you have not been baptized and have trusted Christ as Lord, reach out to your pastor or church this week to take that next step. If you have been baptized, find one person today with whom you can share what Christ has done in your life.

Day 5: The Testimony Does Not End at the Water

Reading: 1 Peter 3:15 -- Peter urges believers to set Christ apart as Lord in their hearts and to always be ready to give a reasoned, gentle, and respectful answer to anyone who asks about the hope they carry.

Devotional: Baptism is a beginning, not a finish line. The moment you come up out of the water is not the moment your testimony ends -- it is the moment it goes public. Peter writes to people who are living in a world that is watching them, often with hostility. And his instruction is not to retreat into safe, comfortable circles of fellow believers. It is to be ready. Ready to speak. Ready to explain. Ready to point to the hope that does not crumble under pressure. The world is full of people who are suffering without a Savior, searching without a foundation, and hoping without knowing what they are hoping for. You have an answer. You have a story. Do not keep it inside these walls.

Reflection: When was the last time you shared what Christ has done in your life with someone outside your church community?

Application: Think of one person in your life who does not know Jesus. Pray for them by name each day this week, and ask God to give you a natural opportunity to share your story with them. When the moment comes, take it.