

5 Day Devotional

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Day 1: Beginning with Jesus

Reading: Romans 1:1-17

Devotional: Paul's letter to the Romans begins not with moral instruction, but with the proclamation of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Before addressing how believers should live, Paul establishes the foundation: the gospel is the power of God for salvation. This order matters profoundly. When we engage with those who don't know Jesus, we must resist the temptation to lead with our positions on cultural issues. Instead, we start with the story of God's love demonstrated in Christ. Our beliefs about life, justice, generosity, and morality make sense only in light of Jesus as Lord. Today, ask yourself: In my conversations with others, do I prioritize presenting Jesus, or do I get sidetracked by secondary issues?

Day 2: Living Sacrifices

Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Devotional: The word "therefore" signals a transition. After eleven chapters proclaiming the good news of Jesus, Paul now addresses how believers should respond. Our transformed living flows from understanding God's mercy in Christ. We offer ourselves as living sacrifices—not to earn salvation, but because we've received it. This is true worship. Notice that Paul doesn't ask unbelievers to live this way first; he calls those who have encountered Jesus to surrender their lives to Him. Our countercultural values—generosity, humility, love for enemies—reflect our citizenship in God's eternal kingdom. These choices may seem foolish to the world, but they make perfect sense when Jesus is Lord. How are you offering your whole life as worship to God today?

Day 3: Hope Beyond This Life

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-28

Devotional: Paul makes a startling declaration: if Christ has not been raised, we are to be pitied above all people. Why? Because everything about the Christian life—our sacrifices, our suffering, our choices—only makes sense if Jesus truly conquered death and established an eternal kingdom. Our hope extends beyond this temporary life into eternity with Christ. This resurrection hope transforms how we view everything: possessions become tools for kingdom work, suffering becomes an opportunity to display Christ's power, and death loses its sting. We're not fools clinging to empty religion; we're citizens of an unshakeable kingdom. When life feels difficult, remember: your hope isn't limited to seventy or eighty years. You're investing in forever.

Day 4: Revering Christ as Lord

Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Devotional: Peter writes to Christians facing hostility and persecution, and his counsel is counterintuitive: you are blessed when you suffer for doing good. Why? Because suffering creates opportunities to share the hope we have in Christ. When the world sees believers respond to hostility with gentleness, respect, and unwavering hope, they begin to wonder. Our consistency in following Jesus—whether people love us or hate us—reveals that we're not living for human approval but for Christ alone. Peter says this is our calling: to suffer for doing good and endure it, following Jesus' example. The world doesn't wonder about our faith when life is easy; they wonder when we face trials with inexplicable peace. Who is watching your response to difficulty today?

Day 5: Called to Endure

Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Devotional: Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example to follow in His steps. This is the Christian calling—not comfort and ease, but faithful endurance that points others to Jesus. When we suffer for doing good and respond with love rather than retaliation, we push back darkness and reveal the light of Christ. This is how the gospel advances. Peter wanted believers to reframe their perspective: persecution isn't a sign that God has lost control, but an opportunity for the good news to spread. When hostility comes, don't be discouraged—be prepared. Someone is watching, wondering about the hope you possess. This is the moment to share Jesus. Will you see today's challenges as obstacles or as divine appointments to demonstrate the transforming power of Christ?