

Choosing to Pursuing Jesus – Week 3

5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide

Day 1: Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus

Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3

Devotional: In our fast-paced world, it's easy to lose focus on what truly matters. Hebrews 12 reminds us to "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith." Just as a runner in a marathon must keep their eyes on the finish line, we too must keep our gaze steady on Christ. What distractions are pulling your attention away from Jesus today? Remember, He endured the cross for the joy set before Him - the joy of reconciling us to God. As you face challenges, fix your focus on Jesus and draw strength from His example of endurance and faith.

Day 2: The Power of Prayer and Fasting

Reading: Mark 9:14-29

Devotional: Jesus taught that some spiritual battles can only be won through prayer and fasting. These disciplines help us refocus our hearts and minds on God, setting aside our own desires to seek His will. In today's reading, we see the disciples struggling to cast out a demon, but Jesus succeeds where they failed. He reveals that their lack of prayer hindered their effectiveness. How might dedicated prayer and occasional fasting deepen your relationship with God and strengthen your spiritual life? Consider setting aside time this week for focused prayer and perhaps a period of fasting to draw closer to God.

Day 3: Joy during Trials

Reading: James 1:2-4

Devotional: The sermon mentioned Jesus finding joy even as He faced the cross. Similarly, James encourages us to find joy in our trials, knowing that they produce perseverance and spiritual maturity. This doesn't mean we enjoy suffering, but rather that we can have a deep-seated joy knowing God is at work in us through our challenges. Reflect on a current difficulty in your life. How might God be using this to strengthen your faith or character? Ask God for the supernatural joy and peace that comes from trusting in His purposes, even when circumstances are tough.

Day 4: Expecting God to Answer Prayer

Reading: Matthew 7:7-11

Devotional: Jesus had complete confidence that the Father would answer His prayers, and He encourages us to approach God with the same expectancy. Today's passage reminds us that God is a good Father who delights in giving good gifts to His children. This doesn't mean God always answers exactly as we expect, but it does mean He always responds with what is best. What prayers have you given up on because you haven't seen an answer? Renew your faith today, trusting that God hears you and will respond in His perfect timing and way. Approach Him boldly, expecting to receive His wisdom, guidance, and provision.

Day 5: The Hope of Resurrection

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Devotional: The ultimate focus that kept Jesus going through His suffering was the expectation of resurrection and restored fellowship with the Father. As believers, we share in this incredible hope. Paul reminds us that death has lost its sting because of Christ's victory. This hope of resurrection isn't just for the distant future - it impacts how we live today. Knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain, how might you live differently? Let the assurance of eternal life with Christ motivate you to stand firm in your faith, fully devoted to God's work. Thank God for the promise of resurrection and ask Him to help you live in light of this hope.