

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from Pastor Pett's sermon from Sunday, February 1, 2026, the Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany:

## 5-Day Bible Devotional: The Power of the Cross

### Day 1: The Wisdom of God vs. The Wisdom of the World

Reading: [1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#)

Devotional:

The world measures success by power, status, and achievement. Yet God chose the cross—an instrument of death and shame—to accomplish our salvation. What the world calls foolish, God calls wisdom. What appears weak is actually His greatest strength. Today, reflect on areas where you're tempted to rely on worldly wisdom rather than God's truth. Are you trying to earn your salvation through good works? Are you ashamed of the simple gospel message? The cross reminds us that God's ways are not our ways. His foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and His weakness is stronger than human strength. Let go of the need to make faith complicated or impressive, and rest in the simple, powerful truth: Christ crucified is everything we need.

### Day 2: Called to Faith, Not Performance

Reading: [Ephesians 2:8-10](#)

Devotional:

Your first and foremost calling as a believer is faith—not achievement, not perfection, not impressive spiritual performance. God chose you not because you were wise, powerful, or of noble birth, but simply because He loves you. Salvation is a gift received, not a prize earned. Today, examine your heart: Are you living under the burden of "You're not a Christian unless..."? Are you adding conditions to God's unconditional grace? The professional Savior has already completed the work. Your response is simply to trust Him. This doesn't mean faith is passive—genuine faith produces good works—but those works flow from gratitude, not obligation. They are the fruit of salvation, not the root. Rest in this truth: God chose what is weak to shame the strong, and that includes you.

### Day 3: Boasting Only in the Lord

Reading: [Jeremiah 9:23-24](#); [1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#)

Devotional:

We live in a culture obsessed with personal credit and self-promotion. Social media has made us experts at showcasing our achievements and curating our image. But the gospel turns this upside down. If salvation depends entirely on Jesus—His perfect life, His sacrificial death, His victorious resurrection—then we have nothing to boast about except Him. He is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. When we're tempted to take credit for our spiritual growth or compare ourselves favorably to others, we rob God of His glory. Today, practice redirecting praise. When someone compliments your character, point them to Jesus who is transforming you. When you're proud of avoiding a particular sin, thank God for His sustaining grace. Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord alone.

### Day 4: Death Is Not Failure

Reading: [Philippians 1:21-26](#); [2 Corinthians 5:1-8](#)

Devotional:

The world views death as the ultimate failure, the final defeat. But through the cross, Jesus transformed death from enemy to doorway, from ending to beginning. When we pray for healing and God answers with heaven, He hasn't failed to answer—He's given the ultimate healing. For believers, physical death is not defeat but victory, not loss but gain, not failure but fulfillment. This perspective changes everything about how we face suffering, aging, and loss. It doesn't mean we don't grieve—Jesus wept at Lazarus's tomb—but we grieve with hope. Today, if you're facing illness, caring for someone who is dying, or mourning a loss, remember: the power of the cross has already defeated death. What looks like failure to the world is actually the doorway to eternal life with Christ.

### Day 5: The Power of the Cross in Daily Life

Reading: [Galatians 2:20](#); [Romans 6:1-14](#)

Devotional:

The cross isn't just about your initial salvation; it's the power source for your entire Christian life. You've been crucified with Christ, and you no longer live, but Christ lives in you. This means the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you today—transforming your character, empowering you to resist sin, enabling you to love difficult people, and sustaining you through trials. Sanctification isn't about trying harder; it's about trusting deeper. As you grow in faith, Christ makes you more like Himself—not through your effort, but through His work in you. Today, identify one area

where you're struggling. Instead of making resolutions or trying harder, surrender that struggle to the cross. Ask Jesus to do in you what only He can do. Remember: if you want it done right, call the Professional.

**May these readings draw you deeper into the mystery and power of the cross, where God's wisdom triumphs over worldly understanding, and His strength is perfected in our weakness.**