

5 Day Devotional

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

5-Day Bible Reading Plan: Putting God First

Day 1: The Call to Examine Our Ways

Reading: Haggai 1:1-11

Devotional: The Israelites returned from exile with good intentions to rebuild God's temple, yet 15 years later it remained in ruins while their own homes were beautifully paneled. How often do we make similar promises to God? We intend to pray more, serve more, give more—just as soon as life settles down. But Haggai's message pierces through our excuses: "Give careful thought to your ways." God isn't asking for our leftovers; He desires to be the architect of our entire lives. Today, pause and honestly assess where you've been putting God off. What "just as soon as" statements have you been making? God's invitation isn't condemnation—it's an offer of abundant life that begins when we stop delaying obedience.

Day 2: The Illusion of "Enough"

Reading: Matthew 6:25-34

Devotional: The Israelites worked tirelessly—planting, building, earning—yet never had enough. Their purses had holes, their harvests disappointed, their satisfaction eluded them. This is the deadly cycle of misplaced priorities: we don't have enough, so we put God off; when we put God off, we never have enough. Jesus addresses this directly: "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Notice Jesus doesn't say these things don't matter—He says they'll be provided when we get our priorities right. Where are you running on empty despite all your efforts? Consider that the solution isn't working harder or earning more, but repositioning God from an item on your list to the One who designs the list itself.

Day 3: Choosing Whom We Will Serve

Reading: Joshua 24:14-24

Devotional: Joshua challenged Israel with a fundamental question: "Choose this day whom you will serve." This isn't a one-time decision but a daily declaration of allegiance. We rarely outright reject

God; instead, we simply relegate Him to secondary status, convincing ourselves that someday we'll fully commit. But there is no neutral ground. Every moment we delay obedience, we're actively choosing something else over God. The good news is that God doesn't demand perfection—He desires priority. He knows that when He occupies His rightful place in our lives, everything else falls into proper alignment. Today, what choice is before you? What area of your life needs you to declare, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"—not someday, but today?

Day 4: The Freedom of First Things First

Reading: Proverbs 3:5-10

Devotional: "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops." This ancient wisdom reveals a profound truth: giving God our firstfruits—not our leftovers—positions us for blessing. When we trust Him with the first of our time, money, energy, and attention, we acknowledge that He is the source of everything we have. This isn't a transaction where we manipulate God into blessing us; it's an act of faith that frees us from the anxiety of scarcity. The Israelites kept their best for themselves and wondered why they remained empty. Today, identify one area where you've been giving God the leftovers. What would it look like to give Him the firstfruits instead? Trust that when you seek Him first, He will direct your paths in ways you cannot imagine.

Day 5: From Ruins to Restoration

Reading: Haggai 1:12-15; 2:1-9

Devotional: The story doesn't end with Haggai's rebuke. When the people heard God's word, they obeyed. They stopped making excuses, stopped waiting for the perfect time, and began rebuilding. And God's response? "I am with you." That's what He promises when we put Him first—not necessarily immediate prosperity, but His presence, which is greater than any blessing. The temple they rebuilt wasn't as grand as Solomon's, yet God promised, "The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house." When we finally surrender our priorities to God, He doesn't just restore what was lost—He creates something better. What "ruins" in your life need God's restoration? Begin today. Stop waiting for the perfect circumstances. God is ready to work, and He promises to be with you every step of the way.