

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Ready to Give an Answer

Devotional

Imagine someone stops you today and asks, "Why do you believe what you believe?" Could you answer them? Not with a rehearsed speech, but with honest, heartfelt conviction rooted in truth.

The Apostle Paul found himself in exactly that position, not once, but repeatedly. Standing before powerful rulers, he did not panic or perform. He simply told the truth about what Jesus had done. His confidence was not in his own cleverness. It was in the message itself.

First Peter 3:15 calls every believer to be ready to give a defense for the hope within them. That word "ready" matters. Readiness is not about having all the answers. It is about being so personally convinced of what Jesus has done in your life that you can speak from a place of genuine faith.

You do not need a theology degree to share your story. You need honesty and a willingness to open your mouth. Paul stood before kings in chains and still spoke with clarity and courage. If God could use Him in that moment, He can absolutely use you in yours.

Start small. Think about one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus. Pray for them this week. Ask God to open a door for a real conversation. You are more prepared than you think.

Bible Verse

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." - 1 Peter 3:15

Reflection Question

If someone asked you today why you follow Jesus, what would you actually say, and does your answer reflect a living, personal faith or just a rehearsed religious response?

Quote

"If you were put on trial today, could you give a defense for the hope that lies within you to be convicted? There goes a Christian."

Prayer

Lord, give me a heart that is ready and willing to speak about You with honesty and courage. Help me to see the opportunities You place in front of me every day. Amen.

Day 2: Truth Is Enough

Devotional

When we think about defending our faith, it is tempting to feel like we need a winning argument, the perfect comeback, or just the right words to convince someone. But that kind of pressure misses the point entirely.

Paul stood before Governor Felix and did not flatter him, manipulate him, or stretch the truth to make his case more appealing. He simply spoke honestly and trusted God with the outcome. That is a model worth following.

The gospel does not need our spin. It does not need to be dressed up or made more palatable. It is already the most powerful message in human history. Our job is to deliver it with integrity, not to manufacture a result.

This is genuinely freeing. You are not responsible for changing someone's heart. That is God's work. You are responsible for being truthful, loving, and willing to speak. When you remove the pressure of "winning," sharing your faith becomes less like a debate and more like a conversation between two people, one of whom has found something worth sharing.

Today, release the need to have all the answers. Trust that speaking the truth in love, even imperfectly, is exactly what God can use.

Bible Verse

"And Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, replied: "Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defense." " - Acts 24:10

Reflection Question

In what ways do you feel pressure to "win" conversations about faith, and how might releasing that pressure actually make you a more effective witness?

Quote

"In defending your faith, you don't have to use the tactics of the world to win the argument. You don't have to go to the flatteries and the falsities. You don't have to go to the stretching the truth and lying about things or attacks. Just speak the truth in the power of the Holy Spirit and let God sort it out."

Prayer

Father, help me to trust that Your truth is powerful enough on its own. Teach me to speak with honesty and love, and to leave the results in Your hands. Amen.

Day 3: The One Thing That Changes Everything

Devotional

People often say they respect Jesus as a teacher or a good moral example. And that sounds open-minded and kind. But here is the thing: if Jesus actually rose from the dead, then "good teacher" is not nearly enough of a response.

The resurrection is not a footnote to Christianity. It is the foundation. Paul made this crystal clear when he stood before King Agrippa. He did not lead with ethics or philosophy. He led with the risen Christ. Because if Jesus is alive, everything changes. Sin can be forgiven. Death has been defeated. Hope is not wishful thinking. It is a fact.

First Corinthians 15 puts it plainly: if Christ has not been raised, our faith is worthless. But He has been raised. And that changes the entire conversation.

When you share your faith this week, do not shy away from the resurrection. It is not an awkward claim to apologize for. It is the very reason you have hope. It is the reason Paul could stand in chains before rulers and still speak with joy. The risen Jesus was not just His message. He was his confidence.

Let Him be yours too.

Bible Verse

"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." - 1 Corinthians 15:17

Reflection Question

How central is the resurrection of Jesus to the way you actually talk about your faith, and do the people around you know that this is what your hope is built on?

Quote

"The real problem people have with Christianity is not the love we profess. It's the Lord we profess that He has risen from the dead. That's the key of our faith, the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for rising from the dead and making real hope possible. Give me the boldness to make Your resurrection the center of every conversation about faith. Amen.

Day 4: A Signpost, Not a Salesman

Devotional

There is a quiet temptation that creeps into faith conversations: the feeling that if someone does not respond the way you hoped, you somehow failed. But that way of thinking puts you at the center of something that was never yours to control.

Paul shared the gospel with Felix, Festus, and King Agrippa. Not one of them said yes. Felix procrastinated. Festus dismissed it. Agrippa came to the edge and turned back. By any human measure, that looks like failure. But Paul kept going, because he understood something freeing: the outcome belongs to God, not to Him.

Your role is not to close a deal. It is to point the way. A signpost does not need to be impressive or perfectly placed. It just needs to point in the right direction. God does not need your eloquence or your strategy. He needs your willingness.

John the Baptist captured this beautifully when he said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." The less we make it about ourselves, the more clearly Jesus comes through.

So take the pressure off. Share honestly. Love genuinely. Point toward Jesus. And trust that God is more than capable of doing the rest.

Bible Verse

"He must become greater; I must become less." - John 3:30

Reflection Question

Is there a faith conversation you have been avoiding because you are afraid of the outcome, and what would it look like to trust God with the result and simply show up?

Quote

"Effectiveness is ultimately dependent upon God, not me. Doesn't need my wisdom, he doesn't need my creativity. He doesn't need my knowledge and skill. I'm not a salesman trying to win a deal. I'm a signpost and a signpost, no matter how ugly, no matter how big or small, it does one thing. It just points the way."

Prayer

Lord, help me to get out of the way and let You work. Make me a faithful signpost that simply points people toward You. Amen.

Day 5: Do Not Leave Them on the Edge

Devotional

There is a kind of response to the gospel that is more dangerous than outright rejection. It is the almost. King Agrippa heard Paul's full defense, felt the weight of it, and said, "In a short time you would persuade me to be a Christian." He was so close. And then he walked away.

Procrastination, dismissal, and almost are not neutral positions. Every person who hears the gospel is standing at a crossroads. Leaving them there without a gentle, loving invitation to step forward is not kindness. It is a missed opportunity.

Acts 26:18 describes what the gospel actually does: it opens blind eyes, turns people from darkness to light, breaks the power of sin, brings complete forgiveness, and delivers an eternal inheritance. That is not a small offer. That is everything. And it deserves a real response.

As you think about the person you identified earlier this week, do not just have a nice conversation and walk away. Lovingly press for a response. Ask them what they think. Invite them to take a step. You are not pressuring them. You are caring enough to not leave them on the edge.

God gave Paul a big stage to proclaim a big God who saves. He has given you one too. Use it well.

Bible Verse

"to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."
- Acts 26:18

Reflection Question

Think about someone in your life who seems close to faith but has never made a decision. What is one loving, honest step you could take this week to invite them to respond?

Quote

"Don't just present the truth. Press for a response to be saved. It's right to draw the line in the sand and just say, you know what? Cross it. I dare ya. You're gonna be blessed."

Prayer

God, give me the courage to not just share the truth but to lovingly invite people to respond to it. Help me to care more about their eternity than my own comfort. Amen.