

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Just a Man

Devotional

When Cornelius fell at Peter's feet to worship him, Peter's response was immediate and humble: he lifted the man up and reminded him that he too was just a man. This moment reveals something profound about true spiritual leadership. Despite Peter's incredible ministry - healing the sick, raising the dead, and preaching with power - he never forgot his humanity. In our culture that often elevates spiritual leaders to celebrity status, Peter's humility stands as a powerful reminder. True spiritual authority doesn't seek worship or recognition; it points others to Jesus. When God uses us in powerful ways, whether in ministry, work, or relationships, we face the temptation to take credit for what only God can do. Peter understood that his role was simply to be obedient to God's calling and let the Lord do the rest. This humility isn't weakness - it's strength that recognizes the source of all power and blessing.

Bible Verse

'Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.' - Psalms 115:1

Reflection Question

In what areas of your life are you tempted to take credit for what God has done through you?

Quote

I'm just a man, just like you guys, just doing what Jesus called me to do and tell others about him. Point out who he is and let God do the rest.

Prayer

Lord, help me remember that I am just a person You've chosen to use for Your glory. Keep me humble and always pointing others to You, not to myself.

Day 2: Breaking Down Walls

Devotional

Peter's encounter with Cornelius forced him to confront deeply held beliefs about who was worthy of God's love. For centuries, Jewish tradition had built walls between Jews and Gentiles, creating an "us versus them" mentality. But God had a different plan. Through a vision and divine orchestration, Peter discovered that God shows no partiality - that His love extends to all people, regardless of race, background, or nationality. This wasn't just about Peter's personal growth; it was about God's heart for all humanity. The same Jesus who died to tear down the wall between humanity and God also died to tear down the walls between people. Today, we still build walls - sometimes based on race, politics, economic status, or even denominational differences. We create categories of who deserves our love, attention, or acceptance. But God's love doesn't operate within our human boundaries. His grace is available to everyone, and His family includes people from every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Bible Verse

'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.' - Acts 10:34-35

Reflection Question

What walls have you built in your heart that might be keeping you from showing God's love to certain people?

Quote

God has opened a door for all men to stand on equal ground before God, regardless of race, background or nationality.

Prayer

Father, reveal any prejudices or barriers in my heart that don't reflect Your love. Help me see all people as You see them - worthy of grace and belonging in Your family.

Day 3: Love Over Legalism

Devotional

Peter's transformation from a rule-focused religious leader to a grace-centered follower of Jesus challenges us to examine our own hearts. Are we more concerned with traditions and what people are doing wrong, or are we focused on showing God's love and grace? It's easy to attach God's name to our personal preferences and cultural comfort zones. We say things like "God would never do that" when what we really mean is "I don't like that." This kind of thinking creates a Christianity built on human legalism rather than divine love. Peter had to learn that God's ways often challenge our religious boxes and cultural expectations. The greatest works of God frequently happen outside our neat categories and comfortable traditions. When we prioritize love over legalism, we create space for God to work in unexpected ways. This doesn't mean abandoning biblical truth, but rather ensuring our hearts are aligned with God's heart of compassion and grace. Love should be our filter for how we treat others, not our personal preferences or cultural biases.

Bible Verse

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' - John 3:16

Reflection Question

Does your life reflect more of God's love or human legalism in how you treat and think about others?

Quote

Does your life reflect more of God's love or man's legalisms? Are you more fixated on tradition of things and how it's supposed to be done and what people are doing wrong? Or are you fixated on how do I show the love of God and the grace of God through these circumstances?

Prayer

Lord, purify my heart from legalistic attitudes and help me show Your love and grace in every situation. Let love be my motivation, not judgment.

Day 4: Step Forward in Faith

Devotional

When Peter shared the Gospel with Cornelius's household, he didn't have a perfect plan or complete understanding of what God was doing. He simply stepped forward in faith, sharing what he knew about Jesus and trusting God to do the rest. This is a powerful reminder that we don't need to have all the answers or feel completely prepared to be used by God. Peter started with what they knew about Jesus and took them to what they needed from Jesus. His message was simple but complete: who Jesus is, what He did, and the forgiveness available to all who believe. Sometimes we complicate evangelism, thinking we need theological degrees or perfect circumstances. But Peter's example shows us that sharing our faith is simply one person telling another person where to find life. We present the Gospel; God does the work of salvation. When we've experienced the goodness of God, our natural response should be wanting others to experience it too. Don't shrink back in fear of saying the wrong thing or not being qualified enough. Step forward in faith, share what you know about Jesus, and trust the Holy Spirit to work.

Bible Verse

'While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.' - Acts 10:44

Reflection Question

What fears or feelings of inadequacy are keeping you from sharing your faith with others?

Quote

Don't shrink in fear, but step forward in faith.

Prayer

God, give me boldness to step forward in faith and share Your love with others. Help me trust that You will work through my simple obedience.

Day 5: Welcome to the Family

Devotional

The Holy Spirit's immediate outpouring on Cornelius's household was God's unmistakable stamp of approval - these Gentiles were now part of His family. Peter and the Jewish believers were amazed that God's gift had been poured out even on the Gentiles. This moment changed everything. What had been unthinkable became undeniable: God's family includes everyone who believes, regardless of their background. When we truly experience God's goodness, our response should be like Peter's - welcoming others into the family of God with joy and amazement at His grace. Too often, we act like gatekeepers instead of door-openers, creating barriers instead of building bridges. But if Jesus tore down the wall that separates people from God and people from each other, we must not build it back up. Some walls are meant to stay down forever. The work of salvation belongs to God, not us. We present the Gospel, but He pours out His Spirit. When we see God working in someone's life, our response should be celebration, not skepticism. Every person who comes to faith is a miracle of grace that deserves our welcome and joy.

Bible Verse

'So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?' - Acts 10:47

Reflection Question

How can you better welcome and celebrate new believers in your church and community?

Quote

When I've experienced the goodness of God, you've got to experience this, too. Welcome to the family of God.

Prayer

Father, help me celebrate every person You bring into Your family. Give me a heart that welcomes others with the same grace You've shown me.