

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: The Prince of Peace Arrives

Devotional

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He made a deliberate choice that spoke volumes about His mission. Kings of that era rode powerful war horses with armies behind them, displaying military might and earthly power. But Jesus chose a humble donkey - a symbol of peace, not conquest. This wasn't weakness; it was intentional. He came not to overthrow governments or establish an earthly kingdom, but to bring something far greater: peace between God and humanity. The crowds expected a military messiah who would free them from Roman oppression. Instead, they received the Prince of Peace who would free them from something far more binding - the bondage of sin. Jesus' choice of transportation revealed His heart: He seeks to bring peace to Jerusalem, peace to this world, and ultimately, peace to your heart. In a world filled with conflict, division, and unrest, we desperately need this kind of peace - not just the absence of war, but the presence of God's wholeness in our lives.

Bible Verse

'Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' - Zechariah 9:9

Reflection Question

In what areas of your life do you need Jesus' peace to replace conflict or anxiety?

Quote

Kings in these days didn't ride donkeys. They rode big white horses with an army behind them. But this donkey, as recorded in the book of Zechariah, is a symbol of peace. Jesus seeks to bring peace to Jerusalem, peace to this world.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming as the Prince of Peace. Help me to receive Your peace in every area of my life where there is turmoil or unrest.

Day 2: The Lamb Presents Himself

Devotional

The timing of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was no coincidence. It was Passover week, when Jewish families would carefully select their sacrificial lamb - examining it for any blemish or defect. As Jesus rode through the gates, He was presenting Himself as the ultimate Passover Lamb, the one who would take away the sins of the world. The crowds celebrated, but Jesus knew the weight of what was coming. He was walking what we might call 'the green mile' - that final journey toward His execution. Yet this wasn't a tragedy; it was the greatest triumph in human history. Every step toward the cross was a step toward our redemption. The Lamb of God was willingly walking toward His sacrifice, not as a victim, but as a victor who would conquer sin and death. This moment reminds us that God's love is not passive or distant - it's active, sacrificial, and personal. He didn't just feel sorry for our condition; He did something about it.

Bible Verse

'The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" - John 1:29

Reflection Question

How does knowing that Jesus willingly chose to be the sacrificial Lamb change your understanding of God's love for you?

Quote

Here's the Lamb of God walking that green mile to his execution.

Prayer

Father, thank You for providing the perfect Lamb to take away my sins. Help me to never take this incredible sacrifice for granted.

Day 3: Life Through Death

Devotional

Jesus taught one of the most counterintuitive truths in all of Scripture: life comes through dying. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a single seed. But when it dies, it produces much fruit. This principle cuts against everything our culture teaches us. We're told to look after ourselves, to be number one, to follow our own needs and wants. But Jesus declares that if we follow that path, life will slip through our fingers no matter what we do. True life - abundant, meaningful, eternal life - comes through surrender, not self-preservation. It comes through dying to our own will and embracing God's will. This doesn't mean we become doormats or lose our identity. Rather, we discover who we were truly meant to be when we stop trying to be our own god. The paradox is beautiful: when we stop grasping for life on our terms, we receive life on God's terms - which is infinitely better than anything we could have imagined for ourselves.

Bible Verse

'Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.' - John 12:24

Reflection Question

What areas of your life do you need to surrender to God in order to experience the abundant life He offers?

Quote

Life comes through dying. Unless he is willing to die, unless he goes to that cross, the whole purpose in his coming will not make sense.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to trust You enough to let go of my own plans and embrace Yours. Teach me that true life comes through surrender to You.

Day 4: Jesus Weeps With Us

Devotional

As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept. This wasn't just a few tears - the word used describes teeth-gritting, sobbing grief. Why did Jesus weep? He saw a city and people He loved who were rejecting the very peace He came to bring. He knew the destruction that would come because they didn't recognize their time of visitation. But there's something beautiful here for us: Jesus feels deeply about human suffering and lostness. At the heart of loneliness is being separated from God. When people say 'nobody cares about me,' they need to hear the message of the cross - God cares so much that He was willing to die for them. Jesus still weeps today over the hurts and pains our world experiences. He hears the screams, cries, and groans of men, women, and children who need the Lord. As His followers, we're called to feel how Jesus loves people and carry that compassion into our conversations with them. We serve a Savior who doesn't stand at a distance from our pain - He enters into it with us.

Bible Verse

'As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it.' - Luke 19:41

Reflection Question

How can you show Christ's compassion to someone who is hurting or feels forgotten this week?

Quote

At the heart of loneliness is to be separated from God. People might say, well, nobody cares about me. Well, listen. Listen to the message of the cross. God cares about you so much that he was willing to die for you and he is always with you.

Prayer

Lord, give me Your heart of compassion for those who are hurting. Help me to be Your hands and feet to bring comfort to others.

Day 5: Adopted Into God's Family

Devotional

The gospel presents us with the most incredible adoption story ever told. Imagine if someone took the life of your son unjustly - you'd long for justice, for payback. Would you ever consider adopting the one who took your son's life and bringing them into your own home? That's exactly what God has done for us. Through Jesus Christ, God has adopted us and brought us into His family, even though we were the ones who sent His Son to the cross. Every time we've failed to be Christlike, every sin we've committed, Christ went to that cross to forgive us. This isn't just about getting a ticket to heaven - it's about being welcomed into God's family as beloved children. We're not just forgiven; we're adopted. We don't just escape punishment; we receive an inheritance. This changes everything about how we see ourselves and how we live. We're no longer orphans trying to earn our way - we're children of the King, secure in His love, free to live boldly for His glory.

Bible Verse

'Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.' - John 1:12

Reflection Question

How does knowing you're adopted into God's family change the way you approach challenges and relationships?

Quote

Through Jesus Christ, God has adopted us, brought us into our own home, even though we were there. And we sent him to that cross.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for adopting me into Your family through Jesus. Help me to live as Your beloved child today.