



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL- Walking with the Lion

Day 1: Faith in the Midst of Doubt

Devotional: We often think of faith as the absence of doubt, but real faith is much messier than that. It's trusting God even when questions linger and circumstances seem overwhelming. The father in Mark's gospel who cried out, "I do believe; help my unbelief!" gives us permission to be honest about our struggles while still reaching for Jesus. This tension between faith and doubt is part of what makes our spiritual journey authentic. God isn't intimidated by our questions or our weaknesses. In fact, He often works most powerfully through them. The Christian walk involves both worshiping Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb who saves us and following Him as the powerful Lion who leads us. While we may find comfort in the gentle Lamb, the Lion calls us to step beyond our comfort zones into places that require courage and trust. When we define ourselves by our weaknesses—saying we're not worthy, smart enough, or capable enough—we create excuses that keep us from following the Lion. These self-imposed limitations become barriers to experiencing God's power in our lives. Today, consider where you might be hiding behind your perceived inadequacies rather than stepping out in faith.

Remember that God's strength is made perfect in weakness, and He delights in using imperfect people to accomplish His purposes.

Bible Verse

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." - Ephesians 1:18-19

Reflection Question

In what area of your life are you currently struggling with both belief and unbelief, and how might God be inviting you to trust Him more deeply in that situation?

Prayer

Lord, like the father in the gospel, I believe, but help my unbelief. Thank you for accepting my honest struggles and meeting me in my doubts. Help me to trust you even when I don't understand everything. Give me courage to follow you as the Lion, not just find comfort in you as the Lamb. Amen.

Day 2: Walking with the Lion

Devotional: There's something comfortable about worshiping Jesus as the Lamb who was slain for our sins. We embrace His sacrifice, His gentleness, His mercy. And rightfully so—without the Lamb, we have no hope, no salvation, no future. But Jesus is also the Lion of Judah—powerful, majestic, and sometimes disruptive to our comfortable lives. This Lion has eyes like blazing fire and a voice like rushing waters. He calls us not just to worship from a distance but to follow Him into places that might frighten us. When we only embrace the Lamb but ignore the Lion, we risk becoming irrelevant in our world. The early church turned the world upside down not because they had perfect theology or impressive buildings, but because they moved in the power of the Holy Spirit. They followed the Lion. God has placed His resurrection power at our disposal as believers. The same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in us! Yet how often do we live as though we're

powerless, defining ourselves by our weaknesses rather than by His strength? Today, consider where the Lion might be calling you to follow. Perhaps it's into a difficult conversation, a new ministry opportunity, or simply a deeper surrender of something you've been holding onto. Remember that when we follow the Lion, we experience the fullness of who Jesus is.

Bible Verse

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 3:14

Reflection Question

What area of your life might God be calling you to stop defining by your weakness and instead start walking in His lion-like strength and power?

Prayer

Mighty Lion of Judah, forgive me for the times I've been content to worship you from a distance rather than follow where you lead. Help me to stop defining myself by my weaknesses and instead embrace the power you've placed within me. Give me courage to follow you even when the path seems uncertain. Amen.

Day 3: Submission: The Pathway to Power

Devotional: Our world has a particular view of power—it comes through control, achievement, and often at the expense of others. We're taught that to be powerful means to be in charge, to call the shots, to make others submit to our authority. But God's kingdom operates by different principles. In His upside-down economy, the way to gain power is through submission. This seems counterintuitive, even foolish by worldly standards. Yet it's the pattern Jesus Himself established. In Gethsemane, facing the horror of the cross, Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but yours be done." The Creator of the universe submitted to the Father's plan, even when it led through suffering. And through that submission came the greatest display of power the world has ever known—resurrection life that conquered death itself. We access God's power not by grasping for control but by surrendering it. When we submit to

God and to one another in love, we align ourselves with His purposes and open ourselves to His work in and through us. This doesn't mean becoming passive or allowing abuse. Rather, it means recognizing that true strength comes from yielding to God's wisdom rather than insisting on our own way. It means acknowledging that we aren't in control—and finding freedom in that truth.

Bible Verse

"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" - John 12:27-28

Reflection Question

In what area of your life are you struggling to submit to God's will, and how might surrendering control in this area actually lead to experiencing more of His power?

Prayer

Father, I confess that submission doesn't come naturally to me. I want to be in control, to do things my way. Help me to trust that your ways are higher than mine. Teach me the freedom that comes through surrender, and show me how submission to you is the pathway to experiencing your power in my life. Amen.

Day 4: A Lifestyle, Not a Time Slot

Devotional: We often approach our spiritual lives as if they're just another appointment on our calendars—9:00 to 10:00, Bible study; 10:00 to 10:15, prayer time. We compartmentalize our relationship with God, giving Him designated slots in our busy schedules. But following Christ was never meant to be confined to specific time blocks. It's not about checking religious activities off our to-do lists. Rather, it's a way of living that influences everything else on our calendars. Paul understood this when he wrote about pressing on toward the goal. He wasn't talking about a daily discipline that he practiced for a set period before moving on to "real life." He was describing an

all-encompassing pursuit that shaped his entire existence. The relentless pursuit of new life in Christ isn't about perfecting a skill or accumulating knowledge. It's about following the Lion in everything we do—our work, our relationships, our leisure, our finances. It's bringing every aspect of our lives under His lordship. This doesn't diminish the importance of dedicated prayer and Bible study. These practices are vital. But they're meant to fuel a lifestyle of following Christ, not substitute for it. They're the means, not the end.

Bible Verse

"Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'" - Matthew 26:39-42

Reflection Question

How might your perspective and actions change if you began viewing your relationship with Christ not as something you do at certain times but as the foundation that shapes everything you do?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, forgive me for compartmentalizing my relationship with you. Help me to see that following you isn't just about designated spiritual activities but about bringing every aspect of my life under your lordship. Transform my thinking so that I pursue you not just in specific moments but in everything I do. Amen.

Day 5: Present with the Present God

Devotional: There's a profound truth that can transform how we view every moment of our lives: God doesn't show up—He is. There's no place you can go where He isn't already present. No situation you face where He hasn't arrived before you. No circumstance, however difficult or joyful, where He is absent. This reality changes everything. We don't need to beg God to come into our situations; we need to become aware of His presence that's already there. We don't need to wonder if God will show up; we need to open our eyes to see how He's already working. When we truly grasp this truth, it

revolutionizes our approach to both worship and service. We worship not to summon God's presence but to acknowledge and celebrate it. We serve not to bring God into dark places but to cooperate with what He's already doing there. The relentless pursuit of new life in Christ means living with this constant awareness—recognizing God's presence in every moment and submitting to His leading. It means glorifying Him right where we are, whether that's in a place of blessing or a place of struggle. Today, practice the presence of God. Look for evidence of His work in the ordinary moments. Listen for His voice in conversations. Sense His guidance in decisions. He is with you, not just in designated spiritual moments but in every breath you take.

Bible Verse

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" - Revelation 5:12

Reflection Question

How might your experience of today change if you approached each moment with the awareness that God is already present and active in every situation you encounter?

Prayer

Ever-present God, open my eyes to see you in every moment of this day. Help me to live with the constant awareness that you are with me—not just when I'm praying or reading Scripture, but in every conversation, every task, every decision. May I glorify you right where I am, cooperating with what you're already doing in and around me. Amen.