

## **Devotions based on May 4th Sermon: The Lord's Favor**

Day 1: Living in God's Favor Reading: Luke 4:14-21 Devotional: Jesus proclaimed the "year of the Lord's favor" - a time of grace, healing, and restoration. As we read this passage, let's reflect on how we are living in this season of God's favor. How are we experiencing God's grace in our lives? Are we extending that same grace to others? Today, consider how you can be an instrument of God's favor to someone in need of healing, freedom, or hope.

Day 2: God's Love for All People Reading: Acts 10:34-48 Devotional: Jesus challenged his hometown audience by reminding them of God's love for outsiders. This message of inclusion is central to the gospel. As you read about Peter's realization that God shows no favoritism, examine your own heart. Are there people or groups you struggle to see as worthy of God's love? Ask God to expand your vision and help you see others through His eyes of love and acceptance.

Day 3: Faith in Seasons of Waiting Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Devotional: We live in the "in-between" time - after Christ's first coming but before His return. This season requires patient faith and active hope. As you meditate on the wisdom of Ecclesiastes, consider the various seasons of your own life. How can you faithfully serve God in this present moment, even as you wait for future promises? Ask God for discernment to recognize His timing and the courage to act when He calls.

Day 4: Bearing Witness to God's Goodness Reading: Acts 1:6-8 Devotional: Jesus calls us to be His witnesses, sharing the good news of God's love and grace. This isn't just about words, but also about how we live our lives. Reflect on your own testimony - how has God worked in your life? What evidence of His goodness can you share with others? Today, pray for opportunities to authentically share your faith story with someone who needs encouragement.

Day 5: Finding Joy in Suffering Reading: Romans 5:1-5 Devotional: The Christian life isn't always easy, but we have hope even in our struggles. Paul reminds us that suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope. As you read this passage, think about challenges you're facing. How might God be using these difficulties to shape you? Ask for the strength to endure, the wisdom to learn, and the faith to see God's presence even in hard times. Remember, you're living in the year of God's favor - His grace is sufficient for you.