

5-day Bible devotional guide based the June 22nd sermon, Disagree?

Day 1: Embracing God Love Reading: Acts 10:9-16, 34-35 Devotional: Peter's vision of the sheet with unclean animals challenged his understanding of God's love and acceptance. Just as Peter learned that God does not show favoritism, we too are called to broaden our perspective on who God welcomes into His family. Reflect on any prejudices or biases you may hold. How might God be calling you to extend His love to those you've previously considered "unclean" or unworthy? Remember, God's love knows no boundaries of race, culture, or background. Pray for a heart that mirrors God's inclusive love.

Day 2: The Power of Unity in Diversity Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 Devotional: The early church faced challenges in embracing diversity, much like we do today. Paul's metaphor of the body reminds us that our differences are not just tolerable, but essential for the health of the church. Consider how your unique gifts and perspective contribute to the body of Christ. How can you appreciate and uplift those whose worship style or expression of faith differs from yours? Ask God to help you see the beauty in diversity and to foster unity without demanding uniformity.

Day 3: Grace: The Great Equalizer Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10 Devotional: The debate over circumcision in Acts 15 ultimately pointed to the sufficiency of God's grace. Like the early Christians, we sometimes struggle with adding conditions to salvation. Meditate on the incredible truth that we are saved by grace alone, through faith. How does this impact your view of yourself and others? Reflect on areas where you might be relying on your own efforts rather than God's grace. Thank God for His unmerited favor and ask for help in extending that same grace to others.

Day 4: Overcoming Obstacles to Faith Reading: Mark 2:1-12 Devotional: Just as James urged the early church not to make it difficult for Gentiles to turn to God, we must consider how we might be creating barriers for others to come to faith. The friends of the paralyzed man went to great lengths to bring him to Jesus. How can you be creative and persistent in helping others encounter Christ? Reflect on any "roofs" that need to be torn open in your life or church to make way for those seeking Jesus. Pray for wisdom in removing obstacles and for courage to go the extra mile for others' salvation.

Day 5: God's Presence in Our Disagreements Reading: Romans 14:1-13 Devotional: The early church navigated significant disagreements with prayer, discussion, and a focus on God's work. When facing conflicts in our faith communities, we can follow their example. Consider a current disagreement you're experiencing. How might God be present in this situation? Reflect on Paul's admonition not to judge one another and to pursue peace. Ask God for humility to listen to others, wisdom to discern His will, and love to maintain unity even in disagreement. Remember

that our ultimate goal is not winning arguments, but glorifying God and building up His kingdom from yours? Ask God to deepen your ability to enter into genuine worship, regardless of the outward form. Pray for a spirit of unity and mutual appreciation among believers with diverse worship expressions.