

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: They Know You Best, But God Knows Better

Devotional

There is something uniquely painful about sharing your faith with family. They have seen your worst moments. They remember who you were before Jesus. And sometimes, that history becomes the very reason they dismiss what God has done in your life.

Paul knew this tension well. Standing before a crowd of his own people in Acts 22, he was not facing strangers. He was facing his community, people who shared his background, his language, and his history. And yet he did not run from that. He leaned into it.

He called them brothers. He spoke their language. He told his story.

That is a powerful reminder for us. Your past is not a liability when it comes to sharing your faith. It is actually one of your greatest tools. The people who know your story the best are also the ones who can see most clearly how much you have changed.

Your family may be skeptical. They may roll their eyes or change the subject. But they cannot argue with a life that has genuinely been transformed. That kind of evidence is hard to dismiss.

Do not be discouraged if the door feels closed right now. God is not finished. He reached Paul on a dusty road in the middle of nowhere, and He can reach the people you love in ways you cannot predict or plan.

Keep showing up. Keep loving them. Keep telling your story.

Bible Verse

"And I said, Who are You, Lord? So He said, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting." - Acts 22:8

Reflection Question

Is there someone in your life whose familiarity with your past has made you hesitant to share what God has done in you?

Quote

"Jesus understands what you're facing when you're trying to reach your family."

Prayer

Lord, thank You that my past does not disqualify me from being used by You. Give me the courage to share my story with the people who know me best, and let my changed life be a witness they cannot ignore.

Day 2: Your Story Is More Powerful Than You Think

Devotional

We often feel like we need the perfect argument or the right theological answer before we can talk to someone about Jesus. But most people are not looking for a debate. They are looking for something real.

Paul did not stand before the crowd in Acts 22 and launch into a lecture. He told his story. This is who I was. This is what happened to me. This is how I have lived since that day. Simple, honest, and deeply personal.

That same structure is available to every one of us. You do not need a seminary degree to share what God has done in your life. You just need to be willing to open up.

Think about it this way. When someone is going through a hard time and you say, "Can I share with you what God has done in my life?" most people will say yes. A personal story lowers defenses in a way that a theological argument never can.

Your testimony is not just a nice addition to your faith. It is one of the most effective bridges you can build with someone who does not yet know Jesus. It connects your real life to their real life, and it points them toward a real God.

Do not underestimate what God has done in you. Your story matters. Someone in your life needs to hear it.

Bible Verse

"My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know." - Acts 22:3

Reflection Question

When did you last share your personal story of faith with someone, and what held you back if you have not?

Quote

"Your personal testimony is a powerful tool. When you go up to somebody and say, hey, I know you're going through a hard time. Can I share with you what God has done in my life? Most people, yeah, I'll be open to hear your story."

Prayer

Father, help me to see my testimony as a gift and not a burden. Give me the words and the courage to share what You have done in my life with someone who needs to hear it today.

Day 3: No One Is Too Far Gone

Devotional

It is easy to look at someone in your life and quietly give up on them. Maybe they have walked away from faith. Maybe they have hurt you deeply. Maybe they have heard the Gospel a dozen times and rejected it every single time. And somewhere along the way, you started to wonder if they are just too far gone.

Paul was that person for someone else once. He dragged Christians out of their homes. He stood by while Stephen was stoned to death. He traveled from city to city to hunt down followers of Jesus. If anyone seemed unreachable, it was him.

And then, on one ordinary road on one ordinary day, everything changed.

That is the nature of God. He does not need a perfect moment or a perfectly prepared heart. He just needs a willing person and an open door, even a crack.

The people in your life who seem the furthest from God may be closer than you think. They are still breathing. God still loves them. And salvation may be closer than it appears.

Your job is not to save them. Your job is to keep praying, keep loving, and keep the door open. God is responsible for the rest. Do not give up on the people He has placed in your life.

Bible Verse

"And it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me." - Acts 22:6

Reflection Question

Is there someone you have quietly given up on, and what would it look like to trust God with them again?

Quote

"All it takes is one moment on one day where God changes them for all eternity. Don't give up. You may not be the voice that brings them to Christ, but you sure are the prayer warrior. Don't give up."

Prayer

God, forgive me for the moments I have written people off. Remind me that You are still at work in the lives of those I love, and give me the faith to keep praying and keep believing.

Day 4: Do What Depends on You

Devotional

Paul did everything right in Acts 22. He spoke respectfully. He told his story honestly. He shared the truth with clarity and courage. And the crowd still turned on him. The moment he said the word Gentiles, the room erupted and they wanted him dead.

That is a hard reality to sit with. You can do everything right and still not get the response you were hoping for. You can love well, speak truth gently, and pray faithfully, and the people you care about most may still walk away.

But here is what Romans 12:18 makes clear. Your responsibility is to do what depends on you. You cannot control how someone responds. You cannot force reconciliation. You cannot manufacture a change of heart in another person.

What you can do is keep your heart soft. You can refuse to build walls when bridges are still possible. You can stay ready for the moment when someone who walked away decides to come back.

Reconciliation requires both sides. But your peace does not have to wait for the other person to come around. You can choose today to release the outcome to God and trust Him with what you cannot control.

That is not giving up. That is faith in action.

Bible Verse

"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." - Romans 12:18

Reflection Question

Is there a relationship in your life where you have been waiting for the other person to make the first move, and what does it look like for you to do your part today?

Quote

"Not everyone is going to make peace with you. Not everyone is going to get saved, no matter how hard you try. Because reconciliation takes a compromise on both sides."

Prayer

Lord, show me what depends on me in the relationships that feel broken. Help me to do my part with a soft heart, and give me the grace to release the rest into Your hands.

Day 5: A Peace That Does Not Depend on Them

Devotional

At the end of the day, the hardest part of loving difficult people is not the conversations or the conflict. It is the waiting. It is carrying the weight of someone else's choices while trying to hold onto your own peace.

Jesus knew we would face this. Before He went to the cross, He made a promise. He said the peace He gives is not like anything the world offers. It does not depend on circumstances. It does not require everyone around you to be okay. It is a peace that guards your heart even in the middle of the storm.

That kind of peace is not passive. It is an active choice to say, Lord, I commit this person into Your hands. I will keep my heart soft. I will stay ready. But I will not let fear or bitterness take root while I wait.

Family may disappoint you. People may misunderstand you. Prayers may feel unanswered for a long time. But Jesus has not left you. He promised to be with you always, and He meant it.

You do not have to have everything resolved to have peace. You just have to trust the One who holds it all. Let His peace guard your heart today, and keep showing up with love for the people He has placed in your life.

Bible Verse

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." - John 14:27

Reflection Question

In what area of your relationships are you allowing fear or unresolved tension to rob you of the peace that Jesus has already promised you?

Quote

"Is the peace of God that passes all understanding guarding your heart to say, Lord, I just commit them into your hands and you do it in your time, save them, fix this issue, reconcile this. But I'll keep my heart soft because the moment they come running back home in a sense to Jesus, I want to be right there ready to embrace them."

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for a peace that does not depend on my circumstances or the choices of others.
Guard my heart today, and help me to trust You fully with the people and situations I cannot control.