



Daily Bible Reading Plan

Matthew 5:21-26

Monday, September 7, 2026

Read: Matthew 5:21-22

Highlight: *"You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, 'Do not murder,'... But I tell you..."*

Explain: Jesus takes the commandment against murder deeper than outward behavior. He reveals that sinful anger, contempt, and hatred begin in the heart. Long before sinful actions appear, sinful attitudes have already taken root.

Apply: Take an honest look at your heart. Is there anyone toward whom you are holding anger, resentment, or bitterness? Ask God to reveal attitudes that need to change.

Respond: "Father, search my heart and expose any sinful anger within me. Help me respond to others with grace, patience, and love. Amen."

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Read: Matthew 5:22

Highlight: Jesus warns against using words that express contempt or devalue another person.

Explain: Our words often reveal the condition of our hearts. Hurtful, insulting, or careless speech damages relationships and dishonors those who are made in God's

image. Followers of Jesus should use words that build others up rather than tear them down.

Apply: Pay close attention to your conversations today. Before speaking, ask yourself:

- Are my words true?
- Are they loving?
- Will they build someone up?

Respond: "Lord, help my words reflect Your love. Guard my tongue and fill my heart with kindness, humility, and compassion. Amen."

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Read: Matthew 5:23-24

Highlight: *"First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift."*

Explain: Jesus teaches that healthy relationships matter to God. While worship is important, He desires that we pursue peace and reconciliation rather than allowing conflict to remain unresolved.

Apply: Is there someone you need to forgive or someone with whom you need to seek reconciliation? Prayerfully consider taking the first step through a conversation, phone call, or message.

Respond: "Father, give me the humility and courage to seek peace with others. Help me reflect the forgiveness You have shown me. Amen."

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Read: Matthew 5:23-25

Highlight: Jesus places the responsibility on His followers to pursue reconciliation whenever possible.

Explain: Waiting for someone else to make the first move often prolongs broken relationships. Jesus calls His disciples to be peacemakers who actively pursue restoration with humility and grace.

Apply: Ask yourself:

- Have I been waiting for someone else to apologize?
- Is God calling me to make the first move?

Pray for wisdom and courage, then take one practical step toward peace.

Respond: "Lord, help me value relationships more than my pride. Give me a heart that pursues peace and reflects Your grace. Amen."

Friday, September 11, 2026

Read: Matthew 5:25-26

Highlight: *"Reach a settlement quickly..."*

Explain: Jesus emphasizes the importance of dealing with conflict promptly. Unresolved bitterness often grows deeper over time, damaging relationships and hardening our hearts. Addressing conflict early promotes healing and unity.

Apply: Is there a conflict you have delayed addressing? Ask God to help you approach the situation with humility, truth, and love rather than avoiding it.

Respond: "Father, help me not to ignore conflict or allow bitterness to grow. Teach me to pursue peace quickly and wisely. Amen."

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Read: Matthew 5:21-26

Highlight: Jesus calls His followers to pursue righteousness that transforms both the heart and relationships.

Explain: Jesus is not satisfied with outward obedience alone. He desires hearts that reflect His own—hearts marked by forgiveness, humility, compassion, and love. As we experience His grace, we become people who extend grace to others.

Apply: Reflect on these questions:

- Is there anger I need to surrender to God?
- Is there forgiveness I need to offer?
- Is there a relationship God is calling me to restore?

Choose one specific action you will take this week to pursue peace.

Respond: "Jesus, thank You for reconciling me to God through Your sacrifice. Help me reflect Your love by pursuing peace, forgiving others, and living with a heart that honors You. Amen."

Weekly Challenge

At the end of these six days, ask yourself:

Do my attitudes, words, and relationships reflect the transforming work of Christ, or am I allowing anger and pride to shape my heart?