

5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Seeing Yourself the Way God Does

Devotional

Before we can love anyone else well, we need to start in an honest place: how we see ourselves. Not the version shaped by our worst mistakes or our proudest moments, but the version God sees.

Here is what is true about you. You are forgiven. You are deeply loved. You are valued. You carry real weaknesses and real failures, and God knows every single one of them. None of that changes how He sees you.

This matters more than it might seem. When we carry a distorted picture of ourselves, it spills over into how we treat the people around us. Insecurity can make us withhold kindness. Pride can make us overlook need. But when we are grounded in who God says we are, we are free to love others without keeping score.

Psalms 23 paints a picture of a God who leads, restores, and provides. He is not distant or disappointed. He is present and personal. That is the foundation you get to stand on today.

You do not have to earn your way into God's care. You are already there. And from that secure place, loving others becomes less of a burden and more of an overflow.

Bible Verse

'He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.' - Psalm 23:2

Reflection Question

How might the way you see yourself be shaping the way you treat the people closest to you?

Quote

You are forgiven, that you are deeply loved, that you are valued, that you are righteous, that you are holy and beloved, but with weaknesses and failures.

Prayer

Lord, help me to see myself the way You see me, forgiven, loved, and valued. Let that truth be the foundation from which I love others well. Amen.

Day 2: Putting God First Is How You Love Yourself

Devotional

We live in a world that tells us self-love means putting yourself first. But there is a better way, one that actually works.

True love for yourself begins with putting God first. When He is at the center, everything else finds its proper place. Your worth is no longer tied to your performance. Your identity is no longer at the mercy of what others think. You are grounded in something that does not shift.

This is not about being passive or ignoring your own needs. It is about ordering your life around what is actually true. When God is first, you are freed from the exhausting work of trying to be your own foundation.

Psalms 130 captures this beautifully. It is a cry from a place of need, a voice calling out to God from the depths, and finding hope because of who God is. That is the posture of someone who knows they cannot carry it all alone and is not trying to.

Loving yourself well means trusting God with the parts of your life that feel too heavy. It means resting in His care rather than striving for control. That kind of rest is not weakness. It is wisdom.

Bible Verse

'Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.' - Psalm 130:1-2

Reflection Question

In what area of your life are you trying to be your own foundation instead of trusting God?

Quote

Loving yourself exalts God puts you in second place. That's loving you. If you want to love yourself, then you want to put God first in your life.

Prayer

Father, I want to put You first in every part of my life. Teach me what it means to truly rest in You, and let that become the way I love myself and others. Amen.

Day 3: Your Neighbor Is Closer Than You Think

Devotional

When the lawyer asked Jesus who His neighbor was, He was probably hoping for a manageable answer. A short list. A clear boundary. Jesus gave Him a story instead.

A man is beaten and left on the road. Two religious leaders walk past. Then a Samaritan, someone the Jewish audience would have considered an outsider, stops. He bandages the wounds, pays for the care, and follows up. He does not ask whether the man deserves it. He just helps.

Jesus flips the question at the end. He does not ask who the neighbor was to the Samaritan. He asks who acted like a neighbor to the man in need. The answer is the one who showed mercy.

Your neighbor is not defined by proximity or similarity. Your neighbor is anyone who has a need and is right in front of you. That could be a coworker having a hard week, a stranger in a difficult moment, or someone in your own home who needs to feel seen.

You do not have to fix everything. You just have to show up with compassion for the person in front of you. That is enough. That is the call.

Bible Verse

'But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.' - Luke 10:33

Reflection Question

Who is the person right in front of you this week who might need someone to simply stop and show up for them?

Quote

My neighbor is anyone who has a need. My neighbor is anyone who has a need, The one right in front of me.

Prayer

God, open my eyes to the needs around me today. Give me a heart that is willing to stop, to see, and to help the person right in front of me. Amen.

Day 4: Compassion in Action, Not Perfection

Devotional

It is easy to feel overwhelmed when you start paying attention to the needs around you. There is always more hurt than any one person can fix. And that weight can quietly talk you out of doing anything at all.

But that is not the standard Jesus set. The Good Samaritan did not solve every problem on the road that day. He helped the one person in front of him, with what he had, in the moment he was in. He used his oil, his wine, his animal, and his money. He did not wait until he had more.

You are not called to fix the world. You are called to do what you can, with what God has given you, for the people He has placed in your path. That is a freeing truth.

God has given you specific resources, relationships, and abilities. The people in your life are not there by accident. They are there by design. And your acts of compassion, however small they feel, carry real weight.

Start with three. Think of three simple acts of compassion you could show someone this week. Not grand gestures. Just faithful ones. That is where love becomes real.

Bible Verse

'He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.' - Luke 10:34

Reflection Question

What is one practical act of compassion you have been putting off because it felt too small to matter?

Quote

We do what we can do with the resources and the talents and the skills that God has given us.

Prayer

Lord, help me stop waiting for the perfect moment and start with what I have. Show me the people You have placed in my life and give me the courage to act. Amen.

Day 5: Love That Points to Jesus

Devotional

Compassion opens a door. But the most important thing you can offer someone is not a meal, a kind word, or a helping hand. It is Jesus.

That is not a reason to skip the practical stuff. The Good Samaritan model matters. Meeting real needs is real love. But genuine care for another person does not stop at the physical or emotional. It goes further, because the deepest need every person carries is a relationship with Jesus.

Before Jesus ascended, He told His followers they would receive power from the Holy Spirit, and that power had a purpose: to be His witnesses. Not experts. Not perfect people. Witnesses. People who share what they have personally seen, heard, and experienced.

You already have a story. You know what Jesus has done in your life. That is exactly what someone around you needs to hear.

Loving your neighbor fully means combining acts of compassion with words of hope. It means caring for the whole person, body and soul. The people God has placed in your life are there for a reason. You are not just their friend or coworker. You might be the person God is using to point them toward the hope that changes everything.

Love them well. All the way.

Bible Verse

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' - Acts 1:8

Reflection Question

Is there someone in your life you have been showing compassion to, but have not yet found the courage to share the hope you have in Jesus?

Quote

Loving others requires us to combine acts of compassion with words of hope.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, give me the courage to be a witness. Let my love for others be complete, meeting their needs and pointing them to the One who meets every need. Amen.