

ORDINARY PEOPLE

Acts 5:12-20

The early church wasn't built by superheroes or spiritual elites. It was shaped by ordinary people who showed up, trusted God, and took small, faithful steps together. Through them, healing happened, hope spread, and lives were changed.

Day 1: Read Acts 4:32–35.

The witness of the first Christians grew out of ordinary acts of generosity and care, sharing and providing for each other.

What ordinary act of sharing, generosity, or compassion could help someone feel cared for, valued, or loved by God today?

Day 2: Read Acts 5:12–14.

The believers continued gathering in Solomon's Colonnade, a familiar public place.

Where do you regularly show up with other people - family, coworkers, classmates, neighbors, or friends? How could God work through your presence there?

Day 3: Read Acts 5:15–16.

The ordinary people of the early church, through their faithful witness and care, became signs of hope for their community.

How can you offer hope to someone who is hurting, discouraged, lonely, or struggling?

Day 4: Read Acts 5:17–32.

The apostles' faithfulness did not protect them from opposition.

Their witness in difficult times testified to the power of God.

What challenges are you facing right now?

How could your response be a witness to God's grace and love?

Day 5: Read Acts 5:33–42

An unlikely ally, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, saves the apostles.

How have you experienced God working through unlikely people in unlikely ways?

Day 6: Read 2 Corinthians 4:7–10.

Paul compares human lives to ordinary clay jars, fragile and imperfect containers carrying the extraordinary treasure of God's grace.

What part of your life makes you feel unqualified, weak, or unlikely to make a difference? How might God work through that very part of you?

God's work has never depended on perfection, status, or having it all figured out. God works through ordinary people like us, using our willingness, our compassion, and our imperfect faith to bring light and hope into the world.

God's power moves through ordinary people in extraordinary ways.

Daily Spiritual Practice: A Prayer of Availability

At the beginning of each day, say this prayer:

"Here I am, God. Use what I have to share your love with one more person today."

ORDINARY OBJECTS

John 6:1-13

When a hungry crowd gathers, Jesus doesn't wait for a perfect plan or a spectacular solution. He begins with what is already there: five loaves and two fish, offered in trust.

Day 1: Read John 6:1-5.

When Jesus saw the people, He immediately thought about their need for food.
What need or person might God be inviting you to notice.

Day 2: Read John 6:5-7.

Philip sees the size of the need, but not the possibility within what they already had.
Where are you so focused on the size of a problem or what you lack that you may be overlooking what is possible?

Day 3: Read John 6:8-9.

Andrew sees an insignificant amount of food. The boy was willing to place what little he had in Jesus' hands and see what could happen with a gift shared.
What small gift, resource, ability, or amount of time could you offer, even though it does not seem like enough?

Day 4: Read John 6:10-13.

What appeared ordinary and insignificant became abundant in Jesus' hands.
How might God use something in your life that you have considered small, ordinary, or unimportant?

Day 5: Read Luke 22:14-20.

At the Last Supper, Jesus took ordinary bread and an ordinary cup and gave them extraordinary meaning.
What ordinary object, meal, or practice helps you remember God's love and faithfulness?

Day 6: Read Acts 9:36-39.

After Tabitha's death, her ordinary garments carried the memory of her compassion, generosity, and faithful service to those who knew her.
What ordinary object reminds you of someone's love or care?
What could you make, prepare, repair, or give as an expression of love?

We often assume God works best through what is impressive or extraordinary. Again and again, however, Scripture reminds us that God delights in using what is simple, shared, and close at hand. Small, everyday offerings can become vessels of grace, abundance, and blessing.

God uses ordinary things to do holy and transformative work.

Daily Spiritual Practice: What Is in My Hands?

Choose something ordinary you touch every day – your phone, keys, a wallet or purse, a plate, a chair. Every time you touch the item during the day, pause and pray: **“God, help me be more aware of Your presence in this and every moment.”**

ORDINARY WORK

Ecclesiastes 3:9–15

Much of our life is made up of ordinary work – laundry and dishes, emails and errands, school drop-offs and dinner plans. It's easy to wonder whether any of it really matters, or if it's just something to get through so we can move on to what's next. Ecclesiastes invites us to see differently.

Day 1: Read Ecclesiastes 2:18–26.

Ecclesiastes invites us to stop asking, “Will this last forever?” and begin asking, “How can I receive and use this moment well?”

What would it look like to receive the work before you today as a gift from God?

Day 2: Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–8.

Life moves through many seasons.

What season of life or work are you experiencing right now?

Day 3: Read Ecclesiastes 3:9–15.

The writer of Ecclesiastes speaks honestly about the burden of work, but also points to the simple gifts of eating, drinking, and finding satisfaction that come from God.

What part of your daily responsibilities currently feels repetitive, exhausting, or a burden?

What gift from God might be present within it?

Day 4: Read Genesis 2:4–9, 15.

Work is originally part of humanity's calling to care for and participate in God's creation.

How can your everyday work help tend, protect, nurture, organize, repair, create, or care for God's world?

Day 5: Read Ecclesiastes 3:16–23.

Ecclesiastes acknowledges injustice, yet trusts God to ultimately judge right and wrong.

How can you remain faithful and find joy in your work, even when life feels unfair or uncertain?

Day 6: Read Psalm 90:12–17.

Psalm 90 ends by asking God to give meaning and permanence to our work: “Establish the work of our hands.” We can ask God to use our work as part of something larger than ourselves.

What work, task, or act of service do you hope God will use for something bigger than yourself?

God is present not only in the big moments, but in the rhythms and routines that fill our days.

Everyday work can become meaningful, not because it's glamorous or permanent, but because God is already there, meeting us in the ordinary.

The extraordinary God is present in our everyday, unextraordinary lives.

Daily Spiritual Practice: Work as Prayer

Choose one ordinary task you'll do each day. Before beginning the task, each time you do it, pause and pray: **“God, meet me in this work.”**

ORDINARY MOMENTS

Luke 24:13–35

Two disciples walk an ordinary road after a difficult day, talking through disappointment and confusion. Jesus joins them, but they do not recognize Him until the end of the journey. The story reminds us how easy it is to miss God's presence, not because God is far away, but because we are not yet paying attention.

Day 1: Read Luke 24:13–16.

Jesus was present well before the disciples were aware of it.
When have you recognized God's presence only after looking back on an experience?

Day 2: Read Luke 24:17–24.

Jesus invited the disciples to tell the whole story of their disappointment and struggle.
What disappointment, question, or confusion do you need to speak honestly to God?

Day 3: Read Luke 24:25–27.

Jesus helped the disciples understand their experience as part of a larger story.
How can remembering God's faithfulness help you see a difficult moment differently?

Day 4: Read Luke 24:28–29.

Jesus appeared ready to continue walking, but the disciples invited Him to stay.
What helps you make room for God rather than rushing immediately to the next activity?

Day 5: Read Luke 24:30–32.

The disciples recognized Jesus during an ordinary meal as bread was broken and shared.
What daily ritual or practice helps you feel connected to God?

Day 6: Read Luke 24:33–35.

After recognizing Jesus, the disciples returned to the community and shared their story.
How can sharing your story invite others to know God's presence in ordinary moments?

Faith grows as we learn to notice God in conversations, interruptions, meals, and quiet moments we might otherwise rush past. Holiness often appears in the places we almost overlook.

God is already present in ordinary moments; faith is learning to notice.

Daily Spiritual Practice: The Examen

At the end of each day, review the day with God by slowly praying through the following questions:

1. **For what moment am I grateful?**
2. **When did I feel close to God or filled with love?**
3. **When did I feel distracted, discouraged, or distant?**
4. **What do I want to carry into tomorrow?**

EXTRAORDINARY GOD

Philippians 4:4–13

Hardship has a way of reminding us how little control we really have. Anxiety, uncertainty, and exhaustion can leave us feeling powerless. But Scripture offers a different story, one where strength, peace, and joy are not things we have to manufacture on our own.

Day 1: Read Philippians 4:4–5.

Paul's joy did not depend upon easy circumstances but upon the nearness of God.
What is the difference between pretending everything is fine and trusting that God is near?

Day 2: Read Philippians 4:6–7.

Paul invites us to bring every concern to God through prayer, with thanksgiving.
What concern are you carrying that needs to be placed honestly before God?

Day 3: Read Philippians 4:8–9.

Paul encourages us to direct our attention toward what reflects God's goodness.
What has occupied most of your attention recently?
What good, true, or life-giving reality might you also need to notice?

Day 4: Read Philippians 4:10–12.

Paul says his contentment is not dependent on his circumstances.
What circumstance most affects your sense of peace or contentment?
What can help you stay content even when things around you are changing?

Day 5: Read Philippians 4:13.

Paul is declaring that Christ gives him strength to remain faithful through abundance, need, freedom, or hardship.
Where do you need strength to endure, adapt, remain faithful, or take the next step?

Day 6: Read Romans 8:35–39.

Paul names hardship, danger, suffering, and uncertainty, then declares that none of them can separate us from the love of God in Christ.
How might you live differently this week if you truly believed that nothing could separate you from God's love?

An extraordinary God meets us right where we are. God's presence doesn't remove every struggle; it sustains us through them. Even in the middle of ordinary, difficult days, God's power is at work – steady, faithful, and near.

In every season, God's extraordinary presence carries us.

Daily Spiritual Practice: The Breath Prayer

Throughout each day, take deep breaths and pray:
Breathe in: **"Jesus is with me..."**
Breathe out: **"Always."**