

DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS
May 11-16, 2026

Monday, May 11, 2026 (by Marilyn Culler)

John 14:15

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

PONDER: We never know what’s coming our way. At the Last Supper, Jesus was preparing the disciples for what was coming. God’s Love requires something of us – obedience. Faithfulness to Jesus’ words abides in us and marks us as disciples.

PRAYER: God who I love with all my being, guide me in keeping true to Your Love that abides in my whole being. Amen.

ACTION: Tell someone you haven’t told before that you love them.

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 (by Ashlee Vitz)

Psalms 67:1–2 (NRSVUE)

“May God be gracious to us and bless us...
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.”

PONDER: This psalm holds together something we often separate: blessing and purpose. “May God bless us...” Why? “So that your way may be known.” Blessing is not meant to stop with us. It flows through us. We all experience blessings in different forms—resources, relationships, opportunities, support. It can be easy to see these as personal gains, things to hold onto or manage. But scripture reframes them as something more.

What if blessing is not just about what we receive, but about what we are entrusted with? Not something to hoard—but something to share. This doesn’t mean we diminish the goodness of what we’ve been given. It means we expand its purpose. God’s grace in our lives is never only for us. It is meant to ripple outward.

PRAYER

Generous God,
thank you for the ways you have blessed our lives.
Help us to recognize those blessings
not as possessions,
but as opportunities to reflect your love.
Guide us to share what we have been given
in ways that bring life to others.
Amen.

ACTION: Identify one way you have been blessed — and intentionally share it today (your time, encouragement, resources, or presence).

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 (by Marilyn Culler)

Acts 16:14-15

“A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.”

PONDER: This faithful businesswoman listened, committed herself to Christ and generously offered warm hospitality to those who were in mission for Christ. We read that Lydia’s heart was opened, reminding me of John Wesley’s Aldersgate experience of his “heart strangely warmed.” God opens to us in so many amazing ways when we are faithful. What is God opening to you in your faithful practices of offering God’s love to others?

PRAYER: Faithful God, open me to the warm embrace of Your Presence so that I see those who need to know Your Love. Amen.

ACTION: Pay attention to who God is sending to you today.

Thursday, May 14, 2026 (by Ashlée Vitz)

Acts 17:27–28 (NRSVUE, excerpt)

“Indeed, he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being.’”

PONDER

We often search for God as if God is distant—somewhere far off, waiting to be found. But this passage offers a different perspective. God is not far. Not in some unreachable place. Not hidden behind complexity or distance. “In him we live and move and have our being.” God is woven into the very fabric of our existence. Present in our breathing, our moving, our being. The challenge, then, is not finding God—but noticing God. Not reaching farther—but becoming more aware. This kind of awareness can transform ordinary moments. A conversation. A walk. A quiet pause. All of it becomes space where God is already present.

PRAYER

Ever-present God,
open our awareness to your nearness.
When we feel disconnected or distant,
remind us that you are closer than we realize.
Help us to notice you
in the ordinary rhythms of our lives.
Amen.

ACTION

Choose one ordinary activity today—walking, eating, working—and intentionally notice God’s presence in that moment.

Friday, May 15, 2026 (by Marilyn Culler)

Ephesians 2:4-5

“God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.”

PONDER: Thanks be to God for God’s mercy! I think of all the times I’ve fallen short, not done enough, failed at discipleship ... you get the idea! Still, God’s mercy and grace follow each of us, pick us up when we realize we’ve fallen short, and give us a do-over when we acknowledge our failures. What wondrous love is this!

PRAYER: Merciful God, thank you for your glorious Love! Amen.

ACTION: What glorious thing has God done in your life today to make you feel alive in Christ? Tell someone today what Christ’s mercy means to you.

Saturday, May 16, 2026 (by Ashlée Vitz)

John 15:12 (NRSVUE)

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

PONDER: Love one another. It sounds simple. Familiar. Almost obvious. And yet, this kind of love is anything but easy. Jesus doesn’t say, “Love when it’s convenient.” Or, “Love those who are easy to love.” He says, “Love as I have loved you.” A love that is patient. A love that shows up. A love that crosses boundaries. A love that stays even when it’s hard. This kind of love is not just a feeling—it’s a practice. A choice we make again and again. And like any practice, it grows over time. We won’t get it perfect. We won’t always get it right. But every time we choose love—especially when it would be easier not to—we reflect something true about God.

PRAYER

God of love,
teach us to love as you have loved us.
When love feels difficult or costly,
give us the strength to keep showing up.
Shape our hearts so that our lives
reflect your compassion and grace.
Amen.

ACTION: Choose one intentional act of love today — especially toward someone who may be difficult to love. Let your action reflect the love you have received.