

# There's No Place Like Home

A 5-day devotional based on the themes from  
*The Wizard of Oz*



# Welcome

Welcome to this 5-day devotional centered on the themes from *The Wizard of Oz*. We're taking the familiar story and using it as a doorway into Scripture, prayer, and spiritual formation. Each day starts with the Bible, then reflects on a scene or symbol from Oz to help you pay attention to what God is shaping in you. You will explore home and belonging, wisdom, compassion, and courage, how to remain alert in a distracting world, and the surprise of grace that has been with you from the start. Read slowly. Talk to God as you go. Our goal is not to rush along to the Emerald City. We simply want to see what God has for us along the Yellow Brick Road.

# Day 1 – There's No Place Like Home

*"May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."* —Matthew 6:10 (NLT)

From the moment she arrived in Oz, Dorothy wanted to go home. She knew she didn't belong in Oz. Yet, her journey through the strange land transformed her. By the time she returned home, she wasn't escaping Oz. She learned to live well within it, gaining courage and purpose throughout the story, and it shaped who she was when she returned to Kansas.

Similarly, Jesus's prayer, "May your Kingdom come. May your will be done **on earth, as it is in heaven**," isn't one that teaches his disciples to wish for escape. He's inviting them to participate in heaven's renewal *now*. As citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20), we are called to embody heaven's culture in this moment, in this place. We bring **hope into despair**, **peace into conflict**, **healing into brokenness**, and **joy into sorrow**. We make God's Kingdom values visible in how we live, speak, and relate right now.

Our longing for "home" should draw us into God's mission today. You're not here by accident (you were made for more!). You're here to bring heaven close.

## Reflect:

- Where in your life can you bring the presence of heaven to earth?
- What relationships, habits, or choices could better reflect your heavenly identity?

## Prayer:

Father, teach me to long for home in the right way. Help me not pull away from the world, but help me step into it with the values of Your Kingdom. Let Your will be done in my life, in my community, and through Your church, on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

# Day 2 – Brains, and Heart, and Courage, Oh My!

*"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."* —James 1:5 (NLT)

*"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."* —Colossians 3:12 (NLT)

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."* —2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

When the companions of Dorothy arrived in Oz, they expected to receive what they believed they were missing. But the wizard didn't give them those things. He handed them a diploma, a clock, and a medal. Not exactly a transformation, but certainly recognition! He affirmed what had already begun to form in them during the entirety of the story!

The journey itself had done the work. Their difficult choices, sacrifices, and setbacks along the way revealed what was already taking shape. As they walked the yellow brick road, unsure, scared, and searching, they became the kind of people (were they people?) they were hoping to be.

Growth doesn't show up all at once. We want it to! We can convince ourselves otherwise, *"if I could just get through this season... If I could just fix this one issue... If I could just feel more inspired, then I'd finally have peace, clarity, I'll finally be who God wants me to be."* But spiritual formation reveals itself through experience, surrender, trust, and obedience.

01

## Wisdom shows up

when you're willing to ask God for guidance and actually listen.

02

## You grow in compassion

when you stay present in pain instead of pulling away.

03

## Courage builds

when you keep going even though fear hasn't disappeared.

James says that wisdom is available, but you have to ask God for it. Colossians says to clothe yourself in compassion, but not when you feel like it, and not for show. It reflects the very heart of God, who called you to be holy and dearly loved. Paul tells Timothy that fear doesn't come from God. The Spirit gives us power, love, and self-discipline. They don't come from a quick trip to Oz. These are all available through God and are ongoing evidence of a life of surrender, discipline, and spiritual maturity. God is already at work in you.

## Reflect and Pray:

- In what ways do you feel like you're still waiting to become the person you want to be?
- What evidence can you see of growth in your life over the past year? Has anyone affirmed that in you?
- What's one area where God might already be forming what you believe you lack?

## Prayer:

God, I know You are growing things in me, even when I can't see them clearly. Help me trust the process of becoming. Give me the humility to ask for wisdom, the strength to stay present with others, and the courage to keep going when I feel afraid. Thank You for walking with me. Keep shaping me as I follow You. Amen.

# Day 3 – The Illusion of Control

*Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord. That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. - Jeremiah 17:5-8 (NLT)*

The Emerald City shines. The Wizard's voice fills the halls. As the fire flares, his promises sound large and his presence is authoritative. Then a tiny dog pulls back the curtain. Levers. Smoke. A man trying to look like more than he is. Does this sound familiar? We place our hope in a plan, a leader, a platform, a strategy, or a "false" version of ourselves. We grip onto the desire to control the more our anxiety rises. The results may feel strong for a moment until the curtain moves and we see what our trust rested on.

Jeremiah gives a simple picture. Two root systems. One where plants trust in human strength and dry out in heat. The other where plants trust in the Lord and draw water even in drought. The heat still comes but the difference is the hidden nourishment. **Control looks sturdy until pressure exposes it. Dependence looks ordinary until fruit appears in a hard season.**

Let this story invite your honesty. Where are you "pulling levers" to feel safe or important or in charge? Where are you avoiding prayer because acting fast on impulse or instinct feels better? Where are you hiding behind an image, a false self? God is not shaming you. He's inviting you to step out from behind the curtain, tell the truth, and let Him be the one who holds you and your life together.

## Surrender and trust are practical

It sounds like confession to a friend. It looks like releasing an outcome in prayer. It shows up as rest when you would rather overwork. It looks like generosity when you want to hoard. It sounds like "Father, You know what I need. I place it in Your hands."

## Reflect:

- What image have you been guarding that needs the light of truth?
- Who can help you keep the curtain open?

## Prayer:

Lord, I let go. Plant me by Your stream. Teach me to trust you in heat and in drought. Grow quiet fruit in my life. Amen.

# Day 4 – Stay Awake. Pay Attention.

"Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak." - Matthew 26:41 (NLT)

There's a moment in Oz when Dorothy's progress stops. She's on the right path, the Emerald City is glowing in the distance, and still the poppies appear. The flowers are beautiful *and* dangerous. Dorothy and her friends get heavy eyes, their steps slow, and their words fade. Soon, sleep takes over their mission to see the wizard.

That scene names something we all face. There are seasons when you feel spiritually drowsy. Sure, you still believe. You still care. But you're tired in ways a nap won't fix. You scroll for a few minutes on your phone and end up losing an hour. You reach for work to avoid a hard feeling. You fill silence with noise and call it rest. **The heart is willing. But your body is weak.**

Jesus speaks into that place. In Gethsemane He asks His friends to keep watch with Him. He doesn't shame them when they prove to be weak. **He names it.** Then he teaches them a simple pattern. **Watch and pray. Stay awake and pay attention to what is happening. Bring it to the Father. That is how a soul resists the drift toward spiritual sleep.**

The poppies look harmless. Many of our habits do. Entertainment is fine in its place. So is work. So is a hobby. But they become poppies when they carry us away from God and from other people.

Notice how Dorothy's story moves. In the movie, at least, help arrives in the form of snow to wake up the sleeping characters. The spell breaks and they rise and walk. That's grace! God is able to wake tired people.

If this is a tired season, be honest about it. Tell God you feel heavy. **Name the poppies.** Ask Him to wake you up!

## Reflect:

- What are the poppies right now? Be specific.
- What one practice would help you keep watch this week?

## Prayer:

Jesus, I feel the pull toward sleep. Wake me with Your presence. Teach me to keep watch and to pray. Turn my habits from numbing to real rest. Give me a clear mind and a willing heart. Keep me present to You and ready to love. Amen.



# Day 5 – The Slippers Were There the Whole Time

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this. It is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. —Ephesians 2:8–10 (NLT)*

Dorothy lands in Oz and almost immediately, the ruby slippers are placed on her feet. She spends the entire story looking for help. She follows the yellow brick road. She meets the Wizard. She faces danger. Only later does she learn that the key she needed was with her the whole time!

**Scripture calls that grace.** You don't earn it. You receive it. Paul says that salvation is God's gift, not a reward for the effort. Grace is the very life of God given to you in Christ. It forgives, adopts, restores. It also empowers! You are God's masterpiece, created anew...so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Grace meets you at the start line!

The slippers also teach us something about attention. Dorothy keeps looking out there for what she already carries. We do the same. We go hunting for the next spiritual secret or the next emotional high. [The gospel brings us back to what is already true in Christ.](#)

Eventually, Dorothy learns how to use what she has been given. Click your heels together. Name where you belong. Then go. The Christian life has a pattern like that too. Remember who you are in Christ. Speak truth to your heart. Then act. [Not to become loved. Because you are loved already. Not to earn a place. Because you have a place already.](#)

## Reflect:

- Where have you been working to earn what God freely gives?
- Who needs you to speak a word of grace over them this week?

## Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for grace I did not earn and cannot lose. remind me who I am in you. steady me to do the good you planned for me. keep my heart soft, my steps faithful, and my hope rooted in your love. Amen.

# Living as Citizens of Heaven

As we conclude this devotional journey, remember that [you are not here by accident](#). Like Dorothy, you may feel displaced at times, longing for your true home. But God has placed you exactly where you are to be a colony of heaven on earth.

## Your Mission

Bring heaven's values into your daily life:

- Hope into despair
- Peace into conflict
- Healing into brokenness
- Joy into sorrow

## Your Resources

Everything you need is already yours:

- God's wisdom when you ask
- The Spirit's power and love
- Grace that empowers action
- A community of fellow travelers

The ruby slippers were on Dorothy's feet from the beginning. In Christ, you have everything you need to live as God's masterpiece, created for the good works He prepared in advance for you to do. [You don't need to wait until you feel ready.](#) [You don't need to earn what has already been freely given.](#)

## Final Prayer:

Father, thank You for the 5-day journey and discovery. Help me to live as a citizen of heaven while we're here on earth. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done through my life, in my community, and in this world. Keep my heart awake to Your presence and ready to bring Your love wherever I go. In Jesus' name, Amen.