## Veteran's Homecoming: Rediscovering Community and Healing in God's House



Seven days to guide veterans returning to church after years away, focusing on healing, renewed faith, and community in God's house.





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#### Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day Bible study plan designed especially for veterans who are returning to church after a time away. Reentering a spiritual community after years apart can feel both overwhelming and hopeful. Whether your absence was filled with doubts, challenges, or simply the busyness of life, this plan aims to gently guide you back into the loving embrace of God's house where healing and restoration abound. **This journey is about rediscovering not only your faith but the deep connection that the body of Christ offers.** 

Often, veterans carry memories and experiences from their service that leave emotional and spiritual marks. Returning to church might bring up feelings of vulnerability, hesitation, or even a longing for peace and a sense of belonging. Our loving God understands this well. Throughout Scripture, He calls us to come home, to rest, and to be restored. This plan explores those priceless truths and the assurance that you are not coming back alone. *You belong here, and God's house is meant to be your sanctuary.* 

Each day features a primary scripture, supporting verses, and devotionals that encourage reflection on your unique journey—from the challenges you've faced to the hope and healing available in Christ. You will find prompts to help articulate your thoughts and prayers to guide your heart closer to God. This is a sacred time of renewal where wounds can find grace and faith can find new strength.







As you embark on this plan, approach each day with open hands and a willing heart. Let God meet you where you are—perhaps cautious, perhaps searching, but always deeply loved. Welcome back to the family of faith; your place at the table is always reserved.













#### Your Verse

Luke 15:20 - 'So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.'

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Psalm 34:18 'The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.'
- Jeremiah 31:3 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.'







### Devotional: God's Compassion Welcomes You Back

Coming back after time away can feel daunting, like approaching a home where you wonder if you'll still be welcomed. The story of the prodigal son in *Luke 15:20* gives us a profound picture of God's heart toward us. No matter how far we've wandered or how long it's been, God watches and waits with loving arms ready to embrace us.

For veterans returning to church, emotions might be mixed—anticipation, fear, hope, or even numbness. Yet God's compassion is constant and tender like the father in this story who ran to his son before he even reached home. It's His kindness that draws us back, not our own merit.

Whether your years away were filled with pain, doubt, or silence, God's invitation is the same: come home. He knows your heart and meets you where you are. Today, surrender your fears and receive the assurance that you are deeply loved and longed for in His house.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	What feelings come up as you read about the father running to his son?
2.	How have you experienced God's compassion during your time away?
3.	What fears or hopes do you have about returning to church now?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about what 'coming home' means for your spiritual journey.
2	Describe a time God showed you kindness when you felt far away.
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3.	List ways you hope to experience community and healing in your return.







## Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for Your unfailing love that draws me home. Help me to rest in the assurance of Your compassion and to feel Your arms around me even before I take my first step back. Heal the wounds that keep me distant and open my heart to trust again. Guide me as I reconnect with Your family and renew my spirit in Your presence. May Your peace replace any fear. In Jesus' name, Amen.  $\bigwedge$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$ 













#### Your Verse

Philippians 4:6-7 - 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

#### Supporting Scriptures

- Isaiah 41:10 'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.'
- John 14:27 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.'







#### Devotional: God's Peace Guards Your Heart and Mind

Veterans often carry the weight of memories and fears that can distress the mind and heart. The Apostle Paul reminds us in *Philippians 4:6–7* to bring all anxieties to God with prayer and thanksgiving. God's peace is not just a feeling but a powerful guard that protects our minds and hearts even amid turmoil.

Returning to church might stir up worries—about acceptance, change, or personal struggles. Yet God's promise is to be with us, offering peace unlike anything the world can give. This spiritual strength doesn't erase past experiences but steadies us through them.

Today, let your concerns surface before God honestly and receive His transcendent peace. Through prayer, you can lay down your burdens and trust that God's presence will shield and renew you as you begin healing in community.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	What anxieties are you carrying as you return to church?
2.	How have you experienced God's peace in difficult moments?
3.	What steps can you take to bring your worries to God daily?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write a prayer listing the specific anxieties you want to surrender.
2.	Describe a memory when God's peace surprised or comforted you.
3.	List actions that help you remember and receive God's peace.







### Prayer for Today

Father, I bring You every worry and anxiety I've carried. Fill me with Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Guard my heart and mind as I take steps to return to Your house and community. Teach me to trust Your presence daily, even when I feel uncertain or afraid. Thank You for Your steadfast love and strength. In Jesus' name, Amen. 🔑 🙏 😂 💪













#### Your Verse

Hebrews 10:24-25 - 'And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.'

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Romans 12:5 'So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.'
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 'Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.'







#### Devotional: Rediscover the Strength of Fellowship

No one was made to walk their faith journey alone. Hebrews 10:24–25 calls us to intentionally encourage each other through authentic community. As a veteran returning to church, re–entering this fellowship may feel unfamiliar, but it is vital for spiritual growth and healing.

Each believer is a member of the body of Christ with unique gifts and value, as Paul explains in *Romans 12:5* and *1 Corinthians 12:27*. Your story, experiences, and presence enrich the community, and in turn, community strengthens your walk.

Today, reflect on the power of belonging and consider ways you can reengage—whether through a small group, worship, or simple conversations. God created us for connection; your place has been waiting.







## Reflect and Apply

	How do you feel about the idea of reconnecting with a church community?
2.	What gifts or experiences can you bring to the body of Christ?
	What fears or barriers might keep you from full community participation?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.\	Write about what community in church meant to you in the past and now.
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2. I	List ways you might connect with others in your church environment.
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3. I	dentify any hesitations and how God might address them.
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## **Prayer for Today**

**Lord, thank You for the gift of community.** Help me to find my place in the body of Christ once again. Soften any fears or hesitations that hold me back and open my heart to encourage and be encouraged. Help me remember I belong and am needed. Guide me to the connections You have prepared for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.  $\heartsuit$   $\diamondsuit$   $\diamondsuit$ 















#### Your Verse

Psalm 51:10-12 - 'Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.'

#### Supporting Scriptures

- Isaiah 40:31 'But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.'
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!'







#### Devotional: Invite God's Renewal and Restoring Joy

Renewal is a beautiful promise for those returning to God's house. David's prayer in *Psalm 51:10–12* reveals a heart longing for cleansing and restoration. It's a model for veterans who may seek fresh starts spiritually after years away.

God invites us to bring our brokenness and receive a renewed spirit. The process may take time and feels like peeling away layers of the old to see the new creation God is making, as Paul describes in *2 Corinthians 5:17*. Placing hope in the Lord brings strength in weariness—as Isaiah assures.

Today, invite God to work deeply in your heart. Ask Him to restore joy and create in you a willing spirit ready to engage fully in His presence and the life of the church.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	What areas of your heart long for renewal and cleansing?
2.	How does the promise of new creation speak to your experience?
3.	What practical steps can support your spiritual renewal today?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write a prayer asking God to create a pure heart within you.
2.	Reflect on moments when your strength was renewed by God's presence.
3.	List ways you can cultivate a willing spirit for growth and healing.







## Prayer for Today

Holy Spirit, come and renew my heart and spirit. Create in me a desire to seek You wholeheartedly. Restore joy in my salvation and sustain me on this journey back. Help me to leave behind the old and live as a new creation in Christ. May Your presence be my strength and refuge. In Jesus' name, Amen.















#### Your Verse

Isaiah 61:1 – 'He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.'

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Psalm 147:3 'He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.'
- Matthew 11:28 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.'







#### Devotional: God's Grace Heals Every Wound

Many veterans carry invisible wounds—emotional, spiritual, or psychological. Isaiah 61:1 reveals God's mission to bring healing and freedom to those brokenhearted and captive in pain. This promise extends magnanimously to you.

God does not ignore the scars; He chooses to bind and heal them personally. Psalm 147:3 reassures that God is intimately involved in this process. Jesus invites the weary and burdened souls to find rest in Him, as recorded in *Matthew 11:28*.

Approach God with honesty about your wounds. Allow His grace to be the balm that brings restoration. Healing is not always instant but a journey walked with God's steadfast love and your renewed faith community.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	What wounds do you carry that need God's healing touch?
2.	How can you accept God's invitation to rest despite past burdens?
3.	In what ways can community support your healing process?
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## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about the wounds you want God to heal in your life.
2.	Reflect on times you experienced God's rest and comfort.
3.	Plan ways to seek support and prayer from your faith community.







### Prayer for Today

Gracious Healer, I bring my brokenness to You. Bind up my wounds and give me freedom from past burdens. Teach me to rest in Your arms and to trust Your healing grace. Surround me with loving friends and fellow believers who will walk this journey with me. Restore my soul and renew my hope. In Jesus' name, Amen.  $\heartsuit$  &  $\curlywedge$ 













#### Your Verse

Revelation 3:20 – 'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.'

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Psalm 42:1 'As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.'
- Romans 12:11 'Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.'







### Devotional: Open Your Heart to Renewed Zeal

Returning to faith is also about rekindling a spiritual passion that may have dimmed over time. In *Revelation 3:20*, Jesus stands patiently at the door of your heart, inviting intimacy once again. The hunger and thirst for God, likened to a deer longing for water, waits patiently within you.

This day calls you to open the door fully, inviting Jesus to feast with you—renewing your spirit and reigniting zeal. Paul encourages us to never lose spiritual fervor but to serve the Lord with enthusiasm as a testimony of new life.

Allow God's light to burn away any apathy or fear. Embrace the excitement of a fresh start, knowing that God delights in your faithful return.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	Where do you sense a desire for God stirring in your life?
2.	What obstacles keep your spiritual passion from fully igniting?
3.	How can you nurture and sustain ongoing zeal in your faith?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Describe how your soul longs for God like a deer to water.
2.	Make a list of activities that help renew your spiritual passion.
2	Write a prayer asking Jesus to come in and refresh your heart.
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### Prayer for Today













#### Your Verse

Isaiah 43:18-19 - 'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.'

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Lamentations 3:22–23 'Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.'
- Philippians 3:13–14 'Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead... I press on toward the goal.'







#### Devotional: Step Confidently into God's New Work

You stand now at the edge of a new season—a fresh chapter in your walk with God. The prophet Isaiah challenges us to release the past and look for the new things God is doing. Even in deserts, God provides streams; even in wilderness places, He makes a way.

Your journey back to church and community is part of that new work. Despite the years and challenges, God's mercies are new every morning, inviting you to press forward toward the purpose He holds for you.

Embrace the courage to move ahead, equipped and surrounded by God's unfailing love and faithfulness. This new chapter offers hope, renewal, and a vibrant connection to the family of God.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	What past experiences do you need to release to move forward in faith?
2.	How do you sense God working a new thing in your life today?
3.	What hopes or goals do you have as you embrace this new chapter?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about how God is making a way in your wilderness.
2.	List daily reminders of God's faithfulness to encourage you.
3.	Set spiritual goals for your next steps in church community.







### Prayer for Today







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