

Thursday, August 11: Read [Judges 9](#)

We will skip the story of Gideon for now and move on to Abimelech. What kind of judge is Abimelech? Why would God allow a crooked leader to take power? How does justice ultimately prevail? What should be our attitude towards corrupt leaders today?

Pray for “My World”

- Neighbors • People at Work • Others God bring into my life
- Continue to pray for the nation, our county and area churches.
- Thank God for “THE CALL” prayer event and the response of our area churches. Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County.
- Pray for the upcoming **BOLD FAITH** initiative in September.

Friday, August 12: Read [Judges 10-11](#)

Jephthah is mentioned in [Hebrews 11:32](#) as one of God’s faithful people. What other judges are mentioned there? Chapter 11 records a controversial account of Jephthah and his daughter. What actually occurs here? Is she eventually sacrificed (killed) or simply destined to live a single life? Does the Bible affirm Jephthah’s vow as good or licit? How do we determine when the Bible prescribes behaviors or simply describes them, whether good or bad?

Pray for Our Missionaries

*Juan & Adriana Palacios* (Angola Africa), *Ivan & Kim Hoyt* (Argentina), *David & Miriam Trott* (Cochabamba, Bolivia), *Mario Bloise* (Argentina), *Nate & MaryBeth Brace* (Kentucky), *Dan & DeAnn Gerard* (San Antonio, TX), *Robert Newkirk* (Jesus Film), *Craig & Shelly Shafer* (Sentani, Indonesia), *Randy & Kari Ash*, *John Smith* (CEF), *Mike & Fran VanBruggen* (S. Africa), *Sue Sanders* (Detroit, MI), *Matt Kooi* (Tijuana), *Daniel Jezonski* (Wycliffe), *Danielle Tucker* (leaving in September), *Andrew & Sara Williams* (New Tribes).

Specific Concerns:

*Tijuana Mission Trip* that is set for for November 20-26

Pray this weekend:

- Review of the week (Thank God for answered prayer)
- Note any ongoing concerns to pray for the week.
- Praise God that He is working in your life. You are growing in your faith.



## Spiritual Disciplines

### Reading Assignments

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.*
- *Read the chapters of the Bible according to the date.*
- *Underline any meaningful verses and take note of specific advice or wisdom gleaned from your reading.*
- *Note any unclear passages or teaching and seek insight, answers or help.*
- *Think about what you’re reading. Ask:*
  1. *How does this apply to me?*
  2. *Are there any temptations to avoid, sins to confess, commands to obey or promises to claim?*
  3. *What insight do I gain on God, myself, others, or life?*
- *Ask God to show you any specific action you need to take as you read.*

## Weekly Readings

Monday, August 8: Read [Romans 1:18-32](#), [2 Timothy 3:1-5](#)

The situation in ancient Israel as recorded in the book of Judges is not unlike the moral decline Paul describes in Rome, or the way the world will be in the last times as described in Timothy. According to these passages, what is the root issue in moral decline? What do you believe is needed to curb corruption? What is our assignment in America today as “the salt and light” of society?

Pray for personal growth:

1. *My relationship with God.*
2. *My life roles*
3. *My personal needs/weak areas*
4. *Goals and objectives*

**Tuesday**, August 9: Read [Psalm 33](#)

Our money reads “In God We Trust”. Is this still true in America? To what degree is the average American hoping in God as outlined in this Psalm? How can we, as a church, start where we’re at and put our full hope and trust in God? What would this look like for you in your daily life?

**Pray for family and friends by name.**

**Wednesday** August 10: Read [Judges 4-5](#)

Read again the story of [Deborah](#). This time consider New Testament teaching on women in leadership. Are there God-ordained roles in the family, church and state that limit women and their leadership? What other examples can you find of godly women and their influence in the Bible besides Deborah? How should the church approach this subject in light of discrimination and the equal opportunity movement?

**Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church**

**(Consider fasting one, two, or all meals this day.)**

- a. Pastors: Pray for God’s grace & guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David’s ministries and families. Pray for the Youth and children’s ministries here at BGCC.
- b. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- c. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- d. Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people.
- e. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ.
- f. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future Pray for God’s clear leading in 2016 and beyond.

