

Friday, August 11: Read [Ecclesiastes 5](#)

Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Friday: Pray for Our Missionaries

David & Miriam Trott (Tucuman, Argentina), **Dan and DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Craig and Shelly Schafer** (Asia-Pacific Region), **Joe and Sue Saunders-Robb** (Reliant), **Daniel Jezowski** (Papau, New Guinea), **Brad and Christa Babjack** (Michigan State University and Lansing Community College), **Alvaro and Raquel Garriga** (Central Asia), **Pastor Roberto** (Las Palmas Church, Tijuana)



Spiritual Disciplines Guide

Week of August 6, 2023

We will need to think carefully as we read the book of Ecclesiastes during the next two weeks. This is no doubt one of the harder books of the Bible to understand. King Solomon undertakes an “existential experiment” of sorts to try to decipher what in life is really worth doing. The repeated phrase throughout the short book is “meaningless, all is meaningless”. The word “meaningless” here means empty, devoid of purpose, trivial.

If you want to avoid living a meaningless life, you would do well to pay attention to the teaching of Solomon in Ecclesiastes. His final conclusions help draw things together after the investigation is through. Without God, life is ultimately pointless. There is no final meaning or purpose. All our efforts in life will end in vain and disappointment. However, we are not without God! He alone gives ultimate meaning and purpose to life. And it is in Jesus Christ that all of us discover what Solomon sought in Ecclesiastes. “*In him was life, and this life was the light of men.*” [John 1:4](#)

Monday, August 7 Read [Ecclesiastes 1](#)

*Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Monday: Pray for yourself:

My relationship with God
My life roles and responsibilities
My personal needs/weak areas
My goals and objectives for the summer season.

Tuesday, August 8: Read [Ecclesiastes 2](#)

*Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday, August 9: Read [Ecclesiastes 3](#)

Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

1. **Leadership**: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC. Pray for the church council and the various ministry team leaders. Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up more workers for the harvest ([Matthew 9:38](#))
2. **Worship**: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for more musicians to help lead the church in worship, including a pianist. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
3. **Fellowship**: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers. Pray that we incorporate newcomers into our church fellowship. Take some time to pray through this past Sunday's congregational prayer requests.
4. **Discipleship**: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Ask God to bless our small group ministry, to raise up new groups, new teachers and more leaders.
5. **Outreach**: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. Ask God to embolden our people to intentionally reach out to others through the Kingdom Assignment "*Dare to Care*".

6. **Future Faith Goals**: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our future plans as we call our members to a greater love and commitment to the Lord and his service. Ask God to bless our finances so that we can better accomplish his purposes for our congregation.

Thursday, August 10: Read [Ecclesiastes 4](#)

Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Thursday: Pray for "My World"

(Write down names as God brings people to mind.)

- **Neighbors** • People who live around me.
- **People at Work** • Others God brings into my life. Take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can you invite to church?
- **Community** -- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County, even through time of crisis.
- **Pray for the area churches** and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation, especially as churches reunite after the pandemic.
- **Pray for the community parachurch ministries** serving our county, including Beginnings Care for Life Center, Branch County Right to Life, Joppa Recovery/Celebrate Recovery, Coach Eby Center, Family Promise, Forgotten Man Ministries, Freedom Recovery Center, God's Choice Church, Jacob's Well Ministry, Presbyterian Free Health Clinic, Shelterhouse, Tommy's House, the Gideons and the Bronson Food Pantry.
- **America**: Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America. Pray that God would use the pandemic, the economy and world events to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for God's guidance and protection for our nation in the coming weeks and months.