

## Thursday Pray for “My World”

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Begin to take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help.
- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County. Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation.
- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.

Friday, Oct. 20: Read [Genesis 32](#), [Acts 20](#)

[Genesis 32](#): Confession: God prepares Jacob for a face to face meeting. Jacob was not quick to give up his ways as a trickster. Jacob first schemed to get himself out of trouble by sending gifts before him to Esau, hoping it might appease Esau’s anger, and then by dividing his camp into two that if one is destroyed the other might escape. He then was left alone on the far side of the Jabbok River. In a strange event, Jacob wrestles with a man until right before day break. Jacob would not let the man go until he blessed him. First, Jacob had to admit his name. Ironically, he would soon meet Esau his brother, whose name he stole for a blessing. I am Jacob (heal grabber, one who trips others or one who doesn’t let go). Second: “No longer Jacob,” this is a new day and a new name, Israel. You have struggled with God and humans and have overcome. Third: “What is your name?” Followed by “Why do you want to know?” We are blessed when we want to know God intimately. We want to know His name.

God’s blessing was predetermined. Jacob had to be prepared to receive it. In spite of Jacob’s sinfulness and selfishness but because of God’s grace Jacob is able to receive the blessing. He becomes Israel, and the Lord is his God. When you look upon the face of God as Jacob did, do you see the God who brought you to a place of forgiveness and love? Read [Hebrews 12:1-3](#). The witnesses include Jacob and those like him who also wrestled with God and their humanity.

[Acts 20](#): Just as Jacob feared greatly for what might befall him, Paul suffered as well. He knew by God’s Spirit that prison and hardship faced him. He also knew he would in the end see his Savior’s face. God’s blessing on both Jacob and Paul was the same: He prepared them and walked with them to the end.

### Pray for Our Missionaries

**Juan & Adriana Palacios** (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert Newkirk** (Jesus Film), **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Mike & Fran VanBruggen** (S. Africa), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Danielle Tucker** (France), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes), **Brad Babjack** (InterVarsity), **Salomon Guzman** (Spectrum), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Interserve, USA)



## Spiritual Disciplines

- *Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading each day.*
- *Read the chapters and 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, Oct. 16: Read [Genesis 28](#), [Acts 16](#)

[Genesis 28](#) records a divided household. Isaac, who was deceived by his son Jacob, sends Jacob away with his blessing. Was sending Jacob away a confession of sin on the part of Isaac for not accepting God’s chosen heir? ([Gen. 25:23](#)). Isaac is humbled. The older son, contrary to tradition, was not to receive the inheritance. God chose to speak to Rebekah and not Isaac about His chosen heir. Isaac chose to put himself before his wife’s own safety ([Gen. 26:8-11](#)). Read [Philippians 2:3](#), [Prov. 11:2](#), [James 4:10](#), [1 Peter 5:6](#)

[Acts 16](#): Before the gospel was to go to Asia, God needed to provide some clarity (v. 6). The Gospel is to set people free from prejudice and traditions. God gives Paul a vision of a man from Macedonia begging him to come and help them. Paul goes and meets Lydia, not a man but a woman. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” Paul would later declare there to be no difference between male and female...(Read [Galatians 3:26-28](#)).

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### ***Monday Pray for:***

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

### **Tuesday**, Oct. 17: Read [Genesis 29, Acts 17](#)

[Genesis 29](#): The Narrative moves from Isaac to Jacob. God's plan requires Jacob to trust Him and give up his cheating ways. Lesson 101: Jacob, the heal grabber, meets his match in Laban. Lesson 102: Leah, the older sister, is blessed with children because Jacob shows favor to Rachel. Jacob was cheated his father's love and now he continues the hurtful tradition of cheating Leah of love. Jacob has a lot to learn. In contrast to Isaac and Jacob's view of love, God's love and favor for His children is to attract others to Him and not drive others away. The Jewish nation was to attract other to God. God's plan to use believers to attract others to Him remains the same. Read [Matthew 11:28-29, John 6:36-38, John 12:31-33](#).

[Acts 17](#): Paul receives an audience from people who truly wanted to know God. This included Jews, Greeks and women. Others just sneered and cause him trouble because it challenged their way of life. God sends us to those who seek him. Not everyone who shows interest or who are religious want to know the truth. His message is inclusive. God created all men with the one intention "*that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.*"<sup>28</sup> *'For in him we live and move and have our being.'* It is a message of eternal life which all men seek. Sin keeps people from that.

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

### **Wednesday** Oct. 18: Read [Genesis 30, Acts 18](#)

Genesis 30: Children are a blessing, inheritance, possession from the Lord, not a reward. ([Psalms 127:2-3](#)). God continued to work on Jacob and work His plan. It is one of the funniest instances in scripture as Jacob is passed back and forth between two sisters who are in competition with one another. *Earning God's grace is as silly as throwing fresh-cut branches in a watering trough to effect the type of sheep to be born. Faith, however, is a different story.* . Read [Ephesians 2:8-9](#).

[Acts 18](#) When the foundations crumble, people panic and try to preserve what is left. The Jewish leaders saw their hold on the people starting to crumble. Jesus warned the disciples that they would face such persecution as they preached the Kingdom of God through the gospel message of Jesus Christ. Paul, Apollos and others were fervent in Spirit to vigorously refute the Jewish opponents. Paul became angry and frustrated. He was ready to move on until God told him He had many people in this carnal city of Corinth. Paul stayed a year and half teaching the Word of God.

The Jewish leaders were fighting to hold onto to the old kingdom. They opposed the Kingdom of God, and its Lord. Are you holding onto the old when God wants to do a new work? There will always be opposition to what God wants to do, either personally in our lives, the changes he wants to make, or from without to work He has called us to do. Frustration is understandable, but don't give up. Take courage. God has much He still wants to do in us and through us. Pray and tell God your struggles. He knows them; you need to hear from Him.

### **Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church (Consider fasting one, two, or all meals this day.)**

- a. Pastors: 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.
- 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. Pray for the children and youth ministries here at BGCC.
- 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 2017 and beyond.

### **Thursday**, Oct. 19: Read [Genesis 31, Acts 19](#)

[Genesis 31](#): Well, it's is time to go, Jacob tells his wives. And here is why...oh by the way, God's angel also told me to leave. How crazy it is that we need to rationalize our willingness to follow God. However, carnal Jacob needed to feel the heat before he returns home. That option wasn't so appealing if Esau was still angry. With God it is a promise. With Jacob, Rebekah and Leah it's a rational business transaction. Read [Genesis 28:10-22; Romans 3:10-12; Psalm 14:1-3; Psalm 53:1-3](#)

[Acts 19](#): The gospel is made clear: Paul explains to these follows of John the Baptist, that John taught that there was one coming after him, Jesus, that they are to follow. Although they were repentant of a sinful life, they still needed salvation.

We also read that proclaiming the authority of Jesus without knowing Jesus as your Savior can be dangerous (vs 13-16). Similar in the reading of [Genesis 28:20-22](#), it would not have been good enough for Jacob to simply call on the name of his father's God, Jacob needed to make the God of Isaac his God.

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