

church to those leaders who show evidence of the Spirit: choose the person and not the position. If the direction changes, you still have the right person. Secular society often times chooses leaders for positions with predetermined goals. God looks for people who follow Him, who trust Him even when goals require adjusting. Read [Titus 1:5-9](#).

### **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**, Dec. 1: Read [Exodus 20-21](#)

[Exodus 20](#): Mission accomplished: They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die,” ([v. 18](#)). From a distance they learned about God and about themselves. Moses was exalted as their leader and they learned to trust him. However, would they learn what they were suppose to: Moses said to the people, “**Do not be afraid**. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.” Often times fear of punishment can be our initial response to God’s commands; however, the salutation of “fear not,” indicates good intentions. How could the giving of The Law be a welcoming salutation? Review verses [2](#), [6](#), [11](#), [12](#) and how trust is to be established between neighbors and with God of creation. Fear resides within a person that does not trust himself to do the right thing. They learned that God is holy and they are not. “Therefore Moses speak to us yourself...do not have God speak to us.”

In [Exodus 21](#), God spells out how neighbor shall treat neighbor. All of God’s law is reflective of His nature, His character. God reigns with integrity and so should His people. A servant, though in legal bondage should not feel disrespected. [Verse 5](#) spells out that a servant who is treated as he should be by law should have the option to remain with the master who has shown him love. Read [Psalm 84:10](#) and consider that it would be better to be a servant in God’s house than have riches among the wicked.

### **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** (South Africa), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Danielle Tucker** (France), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes), **Brad Babjack** (InterVarsity), **Salomon Guzman** (Tijuana), **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 advise 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**, Nov. 27: Read [Exodus 12-13](#)

[Exodus 12](#) The Passover is redemption, the first month, not of the year but as some Jewish scholars believe the point forward of personal redemption of Israel. Although mentioned often with great importance in scripture, this month does not retain great and repeated importance in the secular calendar. It is repeated each year and signifies the start of the sacred calendar. The seventh month is the start of the agricultural calendar ([Ex.23:16](#)). Take this to the new covenant and each person has their own personal day of redemption. And this is the meaning of “the beginning-one let it **be for you**,” ([vs 2](#)). It is not the beginning of the year, but the beginning for you, for it is thus-called in memory of our redemption. We recall our celebration and give thanks. We move forward, out of sin and into His great promise. Read [Hebrews 3](#) and give thought to God’s promise of a spiritually rich life. Let us avoid these mistakes so we don’t forfeit our own spiritual inheritance.

[Exodus 13](#) God led the people out in such a way that they appeared to be ready for battle. Yet He knew their weakness to self doubt and would hasten to return to Egypt if faced with opposition. Therefore, He takes them on the direct route to safety but a longer route to avoid the Philistine country. Read [1 Cor. 10:11-13](#). Remember, we have assurance God knows are every weakness and will deliver those who trust ([Psalm 33:15-22](#)).

### **Monday Pray for:**

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

### **Tuesday**, Nov. 28: Read [Exodus 14-15](#)

[Exodus 14](#): What a day of deliverance! God first harden the hearts of unrepentant Pharaoh and his leaders. The monetary loss caused them to repent (change their relenting minds) to the idea of letting them go. They pursued Israel and Moses with great vigor, The children of Israel were just the opposite. They reluctantly followed Moses. Deliverance would be God's alone! Israel would not share in this great day. God would demonstrate His glory to Egypt, to Israel and to the surrounding nations. Moses instructed Israel to "stand firm," not to retreat. God asked Moses in [verse 15](#) "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Our salvation is won by God. However, we must not remain in what Paul calls the elementary teaching of the gospel but are to grow spiritually. Read [Heb. 5:11-14](#). Luke admonishes the Corinthians in [1 Cor. 3:1-4](#) in similar fashion. As God told Moses to go, so we are called to go!...into all the world and proclaim God's good news..

[Exodus 15](#): The people sang in celebration the song of deliverance. Life looked good and so it was. However, they were then tested and shown that God's promise of blessing was dependent upon their willingness to do what was right. God would set fear into the heart of other nations that then would allow them to pass unchallenged. They suffered without water for three day and then brought to a place of decision. God prepared them by suffering to be open to his blessing and be willing to obey. It was His mercy that brought them to the bitter waters of decision and grace that turned the bitterness into salvation. As Moses used the stick to change bitter water into water to drink, so the Jesus turned the cross into eternal life. This Sunday we will take communion. Prepare now to give thanks and to remember Christ's cup that was poured out for us, and the body that was broken for us.

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

### **Wednesday** Nov. 29: Read [Exodus 16-17](#)

[Exodus 16](#): The people grumbled and grumbled and grumbled. God delivered them from bondage and sinful influence of Egypt. He promised them a future. This future was also for generations to come and yet they could only pity themselves. People can grumble to pagan gods that have no ears to hear. However, God hears them and then lets them know that He hears them. They might insist they grumbled against Moses and Aaron but it wasn't these two men who delivered them. It was God who brought the plagues upon Egypt and parted the sea. We are to express to God our needs and even concerns but we have no place to grumble (to murmur or mutter in discontent; complain sullenly, to utter low, indistinct sounds; growl). That is not engaging in a relationship but avoiding it. If as a believer you do not engage with God, be sure He will with you. By His mercy He destroys any route to return to bondage. Read [Psalm 14:2-3](#) and contemplate how God caused you to seek Him.

[Exodus 17](#): After time of fasting, God met their to hunger and thirst physically so He would have opportunity to address their spiritual needs. Before they could enter the promise land they must know God as both their Spiritual and physical provider. Has God withheld physical needs so He can get your attention. Or possibly is our suffering to build character and hope? ([Rom. 5:3-5](#)). Read [Matthew 5:1-10](#) and contemplate the teachings of Jesus and the experiences in Exodus. Does the Sermon on the Mount cast light on the story of Exodus? How about your life? Does the events of your life make greater sense with the teachings of Exodus and Jesus' teaching. God hasn't change. He is the author of both old and new testament, and He is the author and finisher of your faith ([Heb. 12:2](#)).

### **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**, Nov. 30: Read [Exodus 18-19](#)

[Exodus 18](#): Moses told his father-in-law about everything the Lord had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake and about all the hardships they had met along the way and how the Lord had saved them, ([v 8](#)). A verses later, Moses receives Jethro's judgment and advise over Moses handling the complaints of the people. Moses accepts what Jethro says with a humble heart. God does not always reveal to us His wisdom directly but often has us seek wise council. We are often more than not called to come together than to stand alone. We see through Moses' example that leadership is both personal learning and teaching others. We see this repeated in the New Testament that God gives *gifts to the church*, ([Ephesians 4:11-12](#)), not gifts to men, so as to edify individuals. In similar fashion, Jesus selected 12 apostles to train in righteousness and teach more clearly the way. He then commission them that they too are to make disciples. Read Paul's farewell to the Ephesians in [Acts 20:27-29](#).

[Exodus 19](#): God tells Moses He will prepare the people "so that the people ... will always put their trust in you," ([v 9](#)). Moses leads with God's credentials not his own. This is how the Church operates differently from secular society. God instructs the