

God and God's people without reflecting upon their person would be like looking in a mirror and forgetting what was revealed. Any sin and conviction required action before going into service. ([James 1:23](#)).

[Exodus 39](#): None were lacking in their work. Close was not good enough when it came to completing the work of the tabernacle, according to the instructions given to Moses. How much greater are our bodies, these earthly tabernacles made completed by Christ, to receive the Holy Spirit than a man made structure? In regards to our receiving God's Spirit, everything was done according to God's instruction and made perfect. It was not our working but Christ's finished work that prepared us to receive the Holy Spirit. "Therefore," said Paul, "I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." Read [Romans 12](#) to get a clearer understanding of service and worship.

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. 15: Read [Exodus 40](#)

[Exodus 40](#): As the instructions were given to the order of its build so they assembled the "tabernacle, the tent of meeting," (v.2). No longer was Moses temporary tent outside the camp referred to as a tent of meeting. It now resided in the middle of the camp, the very center and heart of Israel.

One step at a time: First the ark of the covenant law (v.3); then followed by its furnishings and lastly with the courtyard. All of Israel were able to view the inner workings as they assembled all parts one piece at a time. God is not a God of disorder but is a God of peace ([1 Cor. 14:33](#)). We saw it in Genesis with the creation of the world. It was not randomness or disorder. We see it now with the building of the tabernacle. Can you see God working from the inside out in your own life? Is God in the center of your life as the tabernacle was in the center of Israel's?

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)



- 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, Dec. 11: Read [Exodus 32-33](#)

[Exodus 32](#). O Israel (you who strive with God), you have left the way that God had commanded you. The calf and the alter was worshipping God in a foreign manner, in an untrue way, similar to the Egyptian gods. Those who say "all religions are more alike than different," do not understand Christianity. God is making this very clear to Israel. He will not be worshiped nor will He be known in such a manner. His anger, though real, is not like man's anger. Though justified, God will not kill Israel to start over with Moses.

As we look at the discussion between God and Moses the question may be asked is Moses god or is God God? God demonstrates His anger toward man in a way Moses could understand. Moses then pleads with God not to destroy His people and give Egypt a reason to boast. It is important to read scripture with the Character of God in mind. For instance, God angers but anger does not control Him as though He were a slave to His passions. In [1 Corinthians 13:5](#) we read God cannot be provoked (NASB). From [Numbers 23:19](#) we are reminded that God doesn't change His mind nor does He lie. Why then does God speak in such a manner to Moses as though He changed His mind? Did Moses plea to God make a difference? Absolutely, just as our prayers make a difference. Through prayer we gain a better understanding of who God is and then reflect that image back to Him with prayers of thanksgiving, supplications and groaning too great for words to express. Moses reflects God's image back to God. Moses is ready to lead.

[Exodus 33](#) When the children were told they were a stiff-necked people they stripped themselves of their gold jewelry. They began to walk before one another and God naked of pretense and self importance. A better understanding and reverence was realized with the people of Israel. As Moses walked to the tent of

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.

meetings, the people stood outside their tent entrances until he passed. The people recognized that God left His throne above and met with man, (Immanuel, God with us). What a beautiful foreshadowing of Jesus. Jesus walked among men. He healed their diseases and taught men about the Kingdom of God. “No longer,” said Jesus, “do I call you servants... Instead, I have called you friends,” ([John 15:15](#)). The Bible also says, “Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” (Luke 5:16 NIV) This was a habit with Jesus and it needs to become a habit in the life of every believer.

Monday Pray for:

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

Tuesday, Dec. 12: Read [Exodus 34-35](#)

[Exodus 34](#): “Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God,” (v 14). God is jealous as a man might rightly so be jealous if his wife gives her affections to another man. It is a jealousy based out of love and not a jealousy based out of ego. God expresses to Moses in terms he might understand. He has chosen Israel from all other nations to be His people that He might be their God. Let it be clearly understood Israel this is not an open relationship. God did not choose Israel because they were a loyal people. They were a stiff-necked people. God chose Israel to be faithful to. God chose you and me to be faithful to. Any person in their right mind would be faithful in return. As mentioned above, knowing God is not an open marriage nor is it a cheapen relationship with benefits. God does not allow Israel to freely worship other god. He would not be a loving and jealous God if He did. Read [2 Corinthians 11:2-4](#) to get a better understanding of a God-like jealousy.

[Exodus 35](#): “All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the Lord has commanded,” (v.10). What should this look like today? God’s church is not a building but the people. What skills should be employed to building everything the Lord has commanded?

“...and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. Moses gathered all the people together and told them the commands of the Lord. The people responded out of the willingness of their heart. No longer were they distracted by want of food or the heavy labor they once experienced under the Egyptians. How could they neglect so great a salvation. Read [Phil. 2:12-16](#).

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday Dec. 13: Read [Exodus 36-37](#)

[Exodus 36](#): It is amazing that the people responded by giving more than was needed. It is just like God to provide in abundance more than is needed both in material wealth and willingness to give. This would seem strange to most churches. Atten-

dance has dropped. Fewer people attend church even though polls show that most people believe in God. Those who attend attend less often. Is the blame to rest with God? Jesus chastised the religious leaders of His days for this very thing. The parable of the lost coin and the lost sheep speak to this issue. Do not be satisfied with 9 coin and 99 sheep when one of them is lost. Leave what you have and go find the one you have been careless to watch. What would the tabernacle look like if it was missing one pole or even one ring. Read [Luke 15:1-10](#).

[Exodus 37](#): The plans laid out are specific, beautiful and functional. God’s plan for each and everyone of us (His Church) are specific, beautiful and functional as well. Read [1 Corinthians 12:12-31](#) that deals with unity and diversity in the Church. Also, in the same way that the tabernacle was designed to moved when God’s Spirit left, so are Christians to be aware when God’s Spirit leads in a different direction. It moves as God directs.

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, Dec. 14: Read [Exodus 38-39](#)

[Exodus 38](#): “They made the bronze basin and its bronze stand from the mirrors of the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting,” (v. 8). Two points: One is that all positions are created by God for service and of equal importance. The women gave up mirrors (made of shiny metal, not glass) to make the instruments to be used by the priests. The priests took water from them to wash their hands and feet before entering the meeting tent. The women had surrender the very objects they used to see their outward beauty for service to the Lord. (Read [1 Peter 3:3-4](#))

Two, the priests washed from these vessels made of shiny metal so as to see their reflection as they washed. It should give them pause to examine their own hearts and minds before entering the tent of meetings. Wearing the outward garbs and serving