

Friday, January 19: Read [Mark 5](#)

The first part of chapter 5 gives some telling details about how demons operate in people's lives. Notice what the demons know about Jesus and what they ask him to do. How does this incident affirm Jesus' divinity as witnessed by the spirit world? Why doesn't Jesus allow the healed man to follow him? And where exactly is the Decapolis (ten cities region)? Go back and read [Ephesians 6:10-18](#) and follow Paul's instructions to be on guard against the works of the enemy.

Notes:



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.*

Monday, January 15 Read [Mark 1](#)

We'll take the next three weeks in our devotional times to read through the Gospel of Mark. This will prepare us for the upcoming sermon series starting in February. Mark's gospel is the shortest of the four, but it reads like an adventure novel. It is chalk full of action and much lighter on instruction. Notice Mark wastes no time getting into the thick of it. The first paragraph introduces Jesus as the Son of God, picks up with John the Baptist and skips Jesus' nativity, genealogy and early years altogether. As you read Mark's account, ask yourself what kind of power does Jesus display in each of the miracles recorded by Mark. Also take note of the titles Jesus acquires (i.e. Son of God, Holy One of God, Savior, Son of Man)

Notes:

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), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes), **Brad Babjack** (Intervarsity), **Salomon Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Interserve USA)

Pray for: My relationship with God, my life roles, my personal needs/weak areas, my goals and objectives.

Tuesday, January 16: Read [Mark 2](#)

Jesus' ministry produces both admirers and critics. Pay close attention to the many clashes Mark records between Jesus and the religious leaders. Determine now to learn more about just who the teachers of the law, the Pharisees, the Scribes and the Sadducees are. Also notice where Jesus is ministering in each chapter -- Galilee, Judea or Jerusalem. And, is he teaching in a synagogue or in the temple at Jerusalem? Key in on timing as well. Much of the conflict Mark records centers on the Jewish concept of the Sabbath and Jesus' contrary attitude towards it as we read in Mark 2:27-28.

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday January 17: Read [Mark 3](#)

As you read Mark's gospel, pay attention to Mark's frequent mention of demons. Who are these demons? What do they do? Notice their responses to Jesus when he engages them. Are they active today? And, if so, how do we deal with them now?

The section on the unpardonable sin is always as challenge to understand. What exactly does Jesus say is unpardonable to God, and who might commit such a sin? Note where else Jesus says this in [Matthew 12](#) and [Luke 11](#). What is the role of the Holy Spirit in relation to the message of Christ, and what happens to the people who reject the Holy Spirit witness? Note [John 16:7-15](#).

Notes:

**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 2018 and beyond.

Thursday, January 18: Read [Mark 4](#)

This chapter is one of only two or three chapters in Mark that is practically all instruction with little action. Why does Jesus teach through parables (stories)? Note verse 10-12. A parable usually teaches just one central truth. Read each carefully and see if you can discern the main point Jesus is emphasizing. How do the kingdom concepts of Jesus relate to you and your life today? Do you have "ears to hear"? Can you say that God's kingdom, like a seed, is growing in and around you today? Or are rocks or thorns limiting its growth? What kind of crop (results) does God want you to produce, and at what percentage, thirty, sixty or a hundred fold?

Notes:

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. Who can I invite to church this Sunday?
- 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.