

Friday, February 2: Read [Mark 16](#)

Mark gives the shortest account of Jesus' resurrection of the four gospels. Nonetheless, he includes the discovery of the empty tomb, the angel's announcement, the testimony of the women, and Jesus' apparitions at Emmaus and the upper room. He finishes his gospel account with the great commission to preach the gospel universally, Jesus' ascension into heaven and the dispersion of the disciples to preach. Their commission is ours today as well. We are witnesses to Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Ask God to use you today to contact someone who needs Jesus Christ. Be ready to follow His lead as He shows you how to reach out.

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 and Kailey Newkirk** (South Sudan), **Mike and Fran VanBruggen** (South Africa), **Craig and Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt and Becky Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes), **Brad and Christa Babjack** (Intervarsity), **Salomon and Megan Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Interserve USA), **William and Salma Alejandro Garcia** (Tijuana)



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 29 Read [Mark 11](#)

Mark 11 sets in motion the events of holy week. Jesus arrives in Jerusalem in what is commonly called the Triumphal Entry. Mark notes Jesus' cursing of a fig tree, followed by the disciples' surprised response when the tree actually withers and dies. Note the lesson Jesus teaches them about praying with faith (verses 22-24). What is the connection to answered prayer and forgiving others (verse 25). James speaks to both elements of answered prayer in [James 1:6-7; 5:13-18](#). What are you seeking answer in prayer for at this time? And, what role might faith and forgiving others play in getting your prayers answered? Be ready to seek someone else's forgiveness or to extend forgiveness if God shows you the need to do so.

Notes:

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

Tuesday, January 30: Read [Mark 12](#)

Jesus runs into numerous road blocks in Jerusalem in the form of religious opposition. The opening parable in chapter twelve portrays their ultimate sin of rejection of God's Son as Messiah. He then squares off with the Herodians, the Sadducees and the Pharisees. The chapter climaxes with Jesus' announcement of the greatest commandment in verses 29-31. The closing account of the poor widow's offering is an example of ultimate love for God in contrast with the token love offerings of many.

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday January 31: Read [Mark 13](#)

This chapter records what is commonly known as the Olivet Discourse. Jesus takes his disciples aside to the Mount of Olives and explains to them what will be the series of events leading up to his second coming, including a time of great tribulation. Luke and Matthew cover the same discourse in their gospels as well. Notice the repeated theme throughout the chapter -- keep watch and be ready. As readers today, we should heed Jesus' same admonition and be certain that we are in right relationship with God and ready for the Lord's return. He could return soon!

Notes:

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

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.

- a. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Pray for this coming Sunday's service.
- b. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- c. Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries here at BGCC. Pray for our various small groups that meet each week.
- d. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. As God to help us to incorporate new people into our fellowship.
- e. 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, February 1: Read [Mark 14-15](#)

Mark sets the context for Jesus' passion -- the Passover. You may want to go back and re-read the original event in [Exodus 12](#) as well as the establishment of this religious event as a memorial festival in [Leviticus 23](#). The timing of Jesus' passion coincides exactly with the Exodus event and the blood covering of the sacrifice lamb to save Jewish households from the angel of death. Even so, the Jewish nation at Jesus' time completely miss the significance of that historic moment. The perfect lamb of God will be sacrificed for them to save them from the ultimate penalty of sin -- eternal death! Read these two chapters with sincere humility -- God's angel of death has passed over your life because of Jesus' suffering and death on your behalf. Now we gladly serve him as our risen Lord and Savior.

Notes:

Thursday Pray for "My World"

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at work or out in the community • 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 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.