

**Friday**, February 16: Read [1 Samuel 17](#)

Our last chapter this week is entitled Why Hard Times Help. 1 Samuel 17 offers excellent guidance for facing difficult challenges. Hard times can help us produce a stronger faith based on our own experience with the reliability of God.

In the face of adversity, David rises to the challenge. Goliath is a formidable foe. No Israelite warrior volunteered to oppose him, save David. Take note of David's attitude. Where is his confidence placed? What experiences have already convinced David that God is reliable? How does this explain his willingness to step forward and defend God's reputation?

None of us can avoid adversity. Hard times and difficult things come our way naturally. But God has already determined to work together in all things for our good and his glory ([Romans 8:28](#)). Our part is simply to surrender our circumstances to him and then ask him how to respond in faith. As we do, Goliaths of all sorts and sizes will fall away.

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 Garcia** (Tijuana church plant)

# The Good Book

40 Chapters That Reveal the  
Bible's Biggest Ideas

## 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.*

Last week we began an 8 week survey of the Bible entitled: The Good Book -- 40 chapters that reveal the Bible's Biggest Ideas. The theme for our readings from Genesis last week was In the Beginning. Today we head to Exodus with this week's theme: God is Good When Life Gets Messy.

**Monday**, February 12 Read [Exodus 3](#)

Today's chapter is entitled On a First-Name Basis with God. Things had not gone well for Moses. He was living a life of luxury as the adopted son of the king until he murders an Egyptian soldier and has to flee for his life. After 40 years in the desert as a shepherd, God appears to him and calls him to return to Egypt to lead his people out of captivity. God used his past experiences in Egypt and in the wilderness to prepare Moses for the Exodus. And, God promises his presence and power to go with him as the great I AM. He's promised you the same if you'll simply trust him to lead you forward in your present life circumstances. ([Hebrews 13:5, 20-21](#))

**Notes:**

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

## Tuesday, February 13: Read [Exodus 14](#)

Moses and all Israel are in crisis. God has miraculously released them from the grip of slavery only to be threatened with destruction by the army of Egypt. The theme When Life Seems Out to Get You demonstrates how God gains glory (recognition) when we find ourselves stuck and in need of his divine intervention. God's words through Moses are for us as well today, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today." (verse 13) The rest is history. As a result verse 31 tells us that the people stood in awe of the Lord and put their trust in him and in his servant Moses. Has life seemed out to get you lately? Ask God to reveal his glory in your life situation. Cast off fear, stand firm, and watch to see how God leads you.

Notes:

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

## Wednesday February 14: Read [Exodus 20](#)

Deron Spoo calls the Ten Commandment's "Ten Keys You Cannot Live Without". There's nothing more frustrating than trying to play a game when you don't know the rules. Rules add structure and predictability to life. They help us know how to behave and what is required. God has given us a simple set of rules to live by. The first four deal with our relationship to him. The next six deal with how we are to relate to others. They provide structure and predictability to our relationship with God and others. Following them can rescue us from all kinds of negative consequences. Jesus reinforces the relationship principles found in the Ten Commandments in [Matthew 22:36-40](#). Go back and review the list. Which commandment might you need to brush up on today? Ask God to strengthen your desire to better love him and others.

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.
- Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Pray for this coming Sunday's service.
- Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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 15: Read [Judges 16](#)

After God led Israel out of Egypt and into the promised land, he used "Judges" to rule over the nation for a period of about 300 years. Samson was one of those rulers. In his life, we see the fact that God can use even your failures. Samson starts out strong, fades into significant moral lapse, but finishes his life back in touch with God. Delilah talks Samson into breaking his Nazarite vow and thus losing his strength from God. He toyed with temptation and got burnt. When is the last time you were tempted to see how close you could walk to the fire without getting burned? For good reason the Bible admonishes us to flee sexual temptation and youthful lusts ([1 Corinthians 6:18](#)). You cannot face lust and overpower its temptations. You must flee them and then avoid further confrontations. We can learn much from Samson's failure. We can also learn from Samson's finish. His final act is to call out to God to revenge his nation's enemies, the Philistines. And God responds. Later on [Hebrews 11:32](#) names him as one who lived and died by faith, in spite of his apparent failures. You and I are called to do the same.

**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.