

Friday, February 23: Read [*Proverbs 1, Mark 3*](#)

The book of Proverbs contains what Deron Spoo calls Words of Wisdom. One fourth of all the references to the word “wisdom” in the bible are found in the book of Proverbs. Chapter one verse seven tells us that wisdom begins by fearing God. Not by being afraid of God, but by holding a high and reverent view of God as awesome and holy. The author describes wisdom as “doing the right thing at the right time for the right reasons”. Wisdom can often be attributed to having experience in life. In Proverbs, we can learn from the experience of Solomon in a variety of life situations including work, speech, sexuality, finances, emotions and relating to others. In what area of your life are you in need of wisdom? Are you questioning what the right thing to do is, or when is the right time to act? Then your need wisdom. [*James 1:5*](#) tells us to seek God whenever we need wisdom. One practical way to do that could be to turn to the book of Proverbs to find good advice or wise directions in handling your present situation. God will direct you if you take time to seek his will. [*Proverbs 3:5-6*](#) promises the same if we sincerely turn to God for direction.

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.*

This week's theme, simply stated, is GOD IS BIG. The author turns our attention to five chapters taken from the Old Testament poetic books of Job, Psalms and Proverbs.

Monday, February 19 Read [*Job 1*](#)

The title for Job chapter one is Making Sense of Your Suffering. Job, one of the oldest books of the Bible, deals with one of the oldest dilemmas of the Bible -- the problem of pain and suffering. Chapter one states that Job was one of the most integral men of his generation. Yet he suffered like few ever have! The question of why comes up some 27 times in the book. God never answers the question. So Job changes it to “who”? Who are you God? And how can I trust you in my suffering? When Satan sets out to attack Job, God preserves Job's life as a trophy of grace that we look to today in the middle of our own pain, adversity and suffering. And his assignment then becomes ours now -- will we trust God? Verse 21 remains as a creed of faith even for us today.

Notes:

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

Tuesday, February 20: Read [Psalm 23](#)

Forget the Funeral -- This is Life! Deron Spoo's title for David's famous shepherd psalm. While the Psalm is traditionally read at funerals, for the most part, it's a psalm about life. God as our good shepherd provides for us, protects us, restores our souls and guides us to live in right relationship with him. Do you relate to God like that? As his sheep, acknowledge your total reliance on him each day and learn to trust him come what may. His rod and his staff still serve to comfort and guide all who look to him as their shepherd.

Notes:

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday February 21: Read [Psalm 51](#)

The author entitled this Psalm "Guilty But at Peace". It is one of some seven confession psalms that focus on penitence and God's forgiveness. Psalm 51 registers David's words of repentance from the sins of adultery and murder. Fully aware of his guilt, he admits his willful disobedience to God and casts himself on God's mercy seeking cleansing from guilt and restoration. God responds to David's sincere plea and his life is restored. You and I can do the same. If you are dealing with the fallout of sin in your life, re-read this Psalm and make it your own prayer of confession. God is well able to forgive, cleanse and restore you.

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. Ask 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 22: Read [Psalm 139](#)

God is Closer Than You Think. According to this psalm, God is intimately aware of everything about you, and yet he fully loves you just the same! The Psalmist reveals several aspects of God's character and how it relates to us personally. He is all-knowing (verses 1-6). He is ever present (verses 7-12). Although we may feel far from God, he is always present, right here with us. And God is also all-seeing (verses 13-18). He has been vigilant over you all your life, even from the time of your conception in the womb! Why? As John states it, because God is love ([1 John 4:8](#)) and that's how love is and what love does. God is closer than you think. Why not work at developing a keener awareness of God's presence. Like Brother Lawrence, the 19th century Franciscan monk, practice the presence of God. Converse with him, ask his help and guidance frequently and watch to see how he works within and through you.

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.