

Friday, March 2: Read [*Jonah 1, Mark 5*](#)

At the end of this week's theme of "Tough Love, Troubled Times", we come to Jonah, a Man on the Run. God calls him to go to Ninevah and he goes the opposite direction. He attempts to do the impossible and run away from God. Through great difficulty, Jonah eventually calls out to God, who delivers him out of his self-made dilemma and re-enlists him in his original prophetic task.

Has God called you to do something that you'd rather not do? Are you procrastinating in obeying the Lord, or worse, running away from his will? Beware, things could get fishy! Don't delay any longer. Write the letter, make the visit, take the first step, reach out to the one who's hurt you. Whatever you are avoiding just may be an opportunity to experience God's work in and through you, like you've not felt before. Plus, your obedience could have a dramatic effect on someone else's life, just like Jonah did on the Ninevites.

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.*

So far, we've looked at 15 of the 40 chapters that reveal the Bible's biggest ideas. In so doing, we've gone from Genesis, "In the Beginning", through Exodus and Judges, "God is good when life gets messy", through the poetic books of Job, Psalms and Proverbs, "God is Big". This week we will look at five chapters from the Old Testament prophets entitled "Tough Love, Troubled Times".

Monday, February 26 Read [*Isaiah 53*](#)

Devon Spoo has entitled this chapter "The Real Face of Jesus". Verses 2 and 3 prophetically give one of the few physical descriptions of the Savior. In essence, it says that he was about average, nothing special to look at, ordinary in appearance and stature. That cannot be said, however, about his nature and works. In that, he is beyond comparison, far more noble than any mere human could ever be. And so Isaiah predicts through his suffering, death and reappearance he would forever stand out as supreme. We know him now as Lord and Savior. And, as verse 6 so poetically describes the reason humanity needs him, we all like sheep have gone astray!

Notes:

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

Tuesday, February 27: Read [Jeremiah 1](#)

Do you have a sense of inferiority? Jeremiah did, perhaps for good reason. And yet God called him and he obeyed. That's the emphasis of this chapter, "[Inferiority and Obedience](#)". The prophet was under-qualified to serve God, but he did anyway because God told him to. God's calling, not your credentials, qualify you for the high office of "servant of God". Have you heard his calling via Jesus' words "follow me"? Set aside any sense of inadequacy or inferiority and step out in faith. God will reveal himself as faithful to you as you do.

Notes:

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday February 28: Read [Daniel 3](#)

[Whose Side is God On?](#) People throughout the centuries have invoked God's help on behalf of their causes. Sometimes Christians on both sides of the issue, playing field or battle ask God fervently to bless their efforts and take their side. A better approach is here, seen by the three Hebrew slaves in Daniel's account of their civil disobedience and what was supposed to be their extinction by fire. Note their ardent refusal to compromise on God's commands against idolatry. They trusted God for deliverance or, if he so wills, death. Have your convictions ever been put to the test? Rather than asking God to take your side, can you unreservedly take his side and trust in his sovereign will, no matter the outcome? If so, you join the company of some of the bravest saints of the Bible.

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, March 1: Read [Daniel 6](#)

Chapter six of Daniel's book is an enduring example of [INTEGRITY UNDER FIRE](#). Integrity comes from the root "integer". An integer is a whole number. An integral person is someone who's character is complete or pure. They have nothing to hide. They're not duplicitous or two-faced. They're the same in private as they are in public. That kind of integrity of character always stands in contrast to the general populace. The contrast often creates problems, especially with those who feel exposed as frauds, fakes or posers. Enter Daniel and company during the reign of King Darius in Babylon. While Daniel suffered accusations and persecution, God honored his faith, protected his life and exalted him ([1 Peter 5:6](#))

One major opponent to integrity is apathy. Are you tempted to become apathetic in the face of the overwhelming tide of opposition to righteousness in today's society? Can you choose to stand with Daniel and maintain your integrity when everyone else is bowing to lowering standards of morality and the cultural gods of hedonism and materialism? Cast off tendencies to fear lions and retain a righteous fear of God. He will vindicate your cause in the end.

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.