

# 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.*

**Friday**, March 9: Read [Matthew 7 \(Mark 6\)](#)

Matthew 7, [Life Over the Long Haul](#), can be condensed into one word: Choices. The choices we make in life can be determinative as to the kinds of people we become. And this matters to Jesus. He invites us to live by intention and not impulse. The first section deals with our choosing an attitude of judgment or generosity. Second, we can choose a life of either prayerfulness or prayerlessness. The Father waits for us, his children, to talk to him about our needs and concerns. Choose to do so daily. We also make choices about how we will treat people. Always act in the best interest of others. Jesus instructs us to choose the best paths and the best influences. Finally, we choose who we will become. This depends upon what we base our lives upon, sand or rock. What are you choosing?

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)

**Monday**, March 5 Read [John 1](#)

Devon Spoo launches us into the New Testament with the first chapter of John, which he titles [Jesus: God With Skin On](#). Note the similarity of John's beginning with Genesis 1. He introduces Jesus as the ancient "Word", a term referring to the Greek ideal that "the Word" (logos) holds everything together. Jesus is God, the all encompassing, all powerful one who holds everything together. He is also man, as John explains it, via the incarnation, the becoming human or flesh. Note John's references to light, grace and truth. These are key concepts he will revisit throughout the book. They epitomize just who God, known to us through Jesus, actually is. And he has come near to you because he wants you to know his love, his grace and his truth.

**Notes:**

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

**Tuesday**, March 6: Read [Luke 2](#)

Welcome to Our World is the author's title for Luke 2. Luke records the account of Jesus' birth from a human vantage point as an actual historical event. The familiar text reminds us of the humility of God, who left the high and lofty glory of heaven and stooped low to enter our human experience, starting out in a barn! The angel's announcement to those lowly shepherds rings true for us today -- peace on earth and good will (God's favor) to all mankind.

Notes:

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

**Wednesday** March 7: Read [Matthew 5](#)

What Does Jesus Want? That's in essence the point of the next three chapters known simply as the Sermon on the Mount. "The core of Jesus' message is a simple but significant challenge: continue to become until you completely become like him." The first dozen verses known as the Beatitudes could be re-coined the "be-attitudes": ways that God works in and through us to develop Christ-likeness. The following verses deal with our identity as salt and light and its impact on the world around us. The rest of the chapter deals with heart attitudes in relation to the Old Testament laws and the broader and better way of Christ. Is there one in particular that speaks to your present attitudes towards God, life or others? What is God leading you to do about it?

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 8: Read [Matthew 6](#)

Matthew six could be coined Why Worry Never Works. The Sermon on the Mount can be viewed as a day-to-day guide to practice following Jesus. Ask any accomplished musician and they will tell you the key to their accomplishment is consistent practice. This may be true for us as Christians as well. Jesus advises his followers not to practice the spiritual disciplines of prayer, giving and fasting to be seen by others, but as ways to interact with God in privacy. Real spirituality is done for God's approval, not the approval of others.

Next, Jesus addresses our tendency to worry and illustrates through nature the Father's faithfulness for all who choose to trust him. His remedy to worry is to seek first God's rule and his right ways. From there he promises to guide, provide and protect us day in and day out.

**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.