

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 16: Read [Mark 7, Matthew 28](#)

Beating Death. That's the author's caption for Matthew 28. Here, Matthew describes Jesus' resurrection as a real, historic event. Four different groups witness it. **The Angels**, first at the tomb, declared it empty, "He has risen, just as he said. He is not here." **The Women** arrive, encounter the angels and turn to discover Jesus alive! From there, they are sent to "preach" the resurrection, starting with Jesus' disciples in hiding. **The guards** were witnesses to Easter. They had to be paid off to keep silent. Did they remain silent or eventually confess the truth, and even embrace Christ as Savior? Heaven will tell. Finally, **the disciples** witnessed Jesus' victory of sin, death and the power of the devil. Their lives, forever altered, had been re-destined to serve the risen Savior and declare his truth to a world in need of the life only God can offer. Their commission then is ours today as modern day disciples. And Jesus' promise to them then is ours today as well, "Surely I will be with you always to the end of the age".

Easter is just two weeks away. Who do you know that needs assurance of victory, forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life? Why not join those ancient witnesses and reach out with the good news -- death has received a fatal blow!! Jesus is alive! And in Christ, we too will live!

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 12 Read [Luke 8](#)

Author Devon Spoo's message for the week is Jesus Won't Leave Us As We Are. He begins the week with Luke chapter 8 highlighting the question Is Jesus Strong Enough? In this chapter, Luke records four miracles that demonstrate Jesus' divine power over nature, the demonic realm, sickness and even death. Unlike other world religious leaders, Jesus is more than a moral man with a new religious ideal. He is God among men, creating a whole new era of people who are set free from sin, death and the power of the devil. And he has shown himself strong enough to bear the burdens of your life today. Ask him specifically to do so. ([1 Peter 5:7](#))

Notes:

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

Tuesday, March 13: Read [John 3](#)

The Original Come-to-Jesus Meeting is found in this chapter of John's gospel. John records numerous conversations Jesus had with individuals in his book, but this one models the basic need we all possess at birth -- the need to be born again, to have a new spiritual beginning regardless of who we are or how we've lived our lives. Jesus reveals to Nicodemus that God's dominant attitude toward the world is love--genuine concern for the salvation of all. He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

John does not tell us what happened to Nicodemus after his conversation with Jesus. But he does include Nicodemus in his burial account in chapter 19 hinting to his conversion to Christianity. Do you need a spiritual rebirth? It's yours for the asking if you'll simply entrust your life into Jesus' care.

Notes:

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday March 14: Read [Luke 15](#)

The author's theme for Luke 15 is God is Looking For What He Loves. Luke records three parables of Jesus that serve as word pictures of God's tender concern for lost people. In the first parable, a sheep, ignorant of danger, wanders off. The alarmed shepherd come to his rescue and rejoins him to the flock. The second tells of an accidental loss of money and the intensive search to get it back. The final, and most famous, story illustrates an intentional loss of the son who leaves home and squanders his father's wealth. The father's vigilance captures sight of his homebound son and heartily welcomes him home again, restoring the broken relationship. God looks for what he loves! He loves people and is looking to restore everyone who will turn to him.

Do you know somebody who's lost? God wants to bring 'em in. Why not ask him to use you to point the way back home.

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 15: Read [Mark 15](#)

Someone once remarked Every Scar Tells a Story. That's certainly true of Jesus and his crucifixion. Mark's account of Jesus' death could be organized in three parts -- Above the cross (verse 33), Upon the cross (verses 34-38) and At the foot of the cross (verse 39). Above the cross the sky went black, even though it was midday. Creation is reacting to Jesus' innocent suffering. Upon the cross Jesus cries out, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus is literally fulfilling [2 Corinthians 5:21](#) in full view of all. He is taking upon himself the sins of the world from all ages, past, present and future. And, at the foot of the cross, a soldier who had maimed and scarred him, makes the ultimate declaration of faith -- "Surely this man was the Son of God." Can you join him in that confession? And, do you better understand the gospel, the ultimate love story of God told from Calvary's cross so long ago? Have his scars since healed? I think not! "See my hands, my feet, my side." Every scar tells the story once again.

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.