

Friday, June 8: Read [*John 9-10*](#)

John chapter nine is the only chapter in all four gospels that fully covers only one incident -- the healing of a man born blind. Jesus uses the incident as a metaphor for spiritual blindness and final judgment. Chapter ten portrays Jesus in shepherd terms, we being his sheep. True sheep listen to their master's voice and run away from strangers. The analogy again brings him into conflict with his contemporaries and further helps to clarify for us what was blasphemous to them, Jesus claimed to be God (v. 33-39). As one of Jesus' sheep, are you listening to his voice? He speaks to you daily. Listen up!

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**, (Word of Life), **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Sue Saunders** (Bosnia), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (Ethnos360), **Brad and Christa Babjack** (InterVarsity), **Salomon and Megan Guzman** (Tijuana), **Alvaro and Rachel Garriga** (Central Asia)

Thru the New!

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 advise 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.*

Our focus for the next six months of spiritual disciplines will be a consecutive, chapter by chapter reading through the New Testament. The pace will be two to three chapters a day, five days a week. Our goal is to personally survey the books of the New Testament in order to become more familiar with their content and in order to be more open to the Holy Spirit's voice speaking personally to us through our daily study of scripture. Decide now to read "*Thru the New*" in the coming weeks and months.

Monday, June 4 Read [*John 1-2*](#)

We will take the next two weeks to read the Gospel according to John. Watch for key words repeated frequently by John, such as *believe*, *life*, *light* and *love*. He launches his gospel in chapter one with a prologue introducing Jesus as the "Eternal Word", a concept at that time meaning "the all encompassing one", i.e. God. Chapter two present Jesus' first miracle at a wedding in Cana and his first passover in Jerusalem, where he cleanses the temple for the first time. What do we learn about God the Father as He is seen acted out through his Son?

Notes:

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

Tuesday, June 5: Read [John 3-4](#)

In chapter three, we meet Nicodemus and consider the importance of the spiritual rebirth. Later, an interview with John the Baptist reveals the true difference between John, as a prophet for God, and Jesus as the ultimate Son of God. Chapter four portrays the longest conversation Jesus had with anyone in scripture -- a Samaritan woman of low repute. Notice the emphasis on life giving water flowing from the Holy Spirit. The whole town's conclusion in verse 42 is that Jesus truly is "the Savior of the world".

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday June 6: Read [John 5-6](#)

John records seven different miracles in his gospel. He calls them "signs" that demonstrate Jesus' deity ([John 20:30-31](#)). Take note of each miraculous sign as we encounter them in this gospel. Ask yourself, why did John choose to record this miracle? What does it demonstrate about Jesus? What kind of power does it require of him? And how does his audience respond to it? Chapters five and six kick off what is referred to as "the period of controversy". Jesus' popularity clashes with the contemporary religious leaders. Unlike the crowds around him, they do not believe he fits the stereotype as the long-awaited Messiah. So they challenge him -- his message, his works and his authority to act. There is much to learn about Jesus' true identity by studying his responses to his critics. What do you learn through their debates?

Notes:

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church (Consider fasting one, two, or all meals this day.)

- a. 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.
- b. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- c. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- d. Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries here at BGCC.
- e. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ.
- f. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our 2020 plan. Pray for our upcoming 150th celebration. Ask God to use it as a testimony to Branch County.

Thursday, June 7: Read [John 7-8](#)

The period of controversy heightens over the next two chapters of John. Again, his adversaries press him hard in order to disqualify him as Christ the Messiah of Israel. And again, Jesus' responses to their trick questions and traps reveal both the purity of his character and the hypocrisy of the Jewish religious leaders of that time. John 8:47 suggests a telling truth about preconceptions and how people respond to God's truth. Too often people are predisposed to respond to truth (reality) not as it really is but rather as they've already determined it to be. The fact is, God must change the predispositions of people's hearts in order for them to respond favorably to his revelation, his truth and his gospel. (Note [2 Corinthians 4:1-6](#)).

Notes:

Thursday Pray for "My World"

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • 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.