

Friday, June 15: Read [\*John 20-21\*](#)

Chapter 20 is an excellent account of the first Easter, chock-full of eye witness details -- the early women, Mary Magdalene, the disciples, Thomas the doubter. He closes the chapter with what could be the key passage of his whole gospel story -- verses 30-31. Here John explains just what he has written down, why he wrote it and what happens to those who take to heart his message. Faith leads to life in Jesus' name!

Chapter 21 serves as a kind of postlude to the gospel of John, keying in on the reestablishment of Peter, who had earlier denied Christ. His admonition to Peter remains true for us today as well. If we love him, feed his sheep (take care of his people). That is our ongoing assignment until he comes again. John finishes his gospel reminding us one more time that he was an eyewitness of everything he wrote about in his gospel (verses 24-25).

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** (University of West Virginia), **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 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.*

Monday, June 11 Read [\*John 11-12\*](#)

This week we will pick up with the second half of the gospel of John -- mostly covering the last week of Christ's earthly ministry. Chapter 11 zeros in on the resurrection of Lazarus and the impact it has on the Jews in Bethany and nearby Jerusalem. Take note of Jesus' strategy in delaying his arrival and the personal conversations dealing with the faith of Lazarus' sisters, Martha and Mary.

John 12 inaugurates Holy Week with Mary anointing Jesus, affirming his upcoming death and burial. Next, John covers the triumphal entry into Jerusalem followed by intimate instruction on Jesus' upcoming suffering and death. Verse 32 emphasizes the magnetic power of Jesus' crucifixion -- drawing all people to himself.

Notes:

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

## Tuesday, June 12: Read [John 13-14](#)

The following four chapters occur in the “upper room” the night before Jesus’ death. Jesus’ example of service rings loud and clear even for us today. We are commanded to follow his lead and serve one another in love (v. 15, 34). By this example others will recognize you as a Christian.

In chapter fourteen, Jesus explains his departure to the Father and the replacement -- another counselor coming to pick up where Jesus left off. Notice the direct connection between love and obedience for us as disciples of Jesus. Much hinges on our following his instructions, including our personal experience of the Father as Jesus explains it.

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

## Wednesday June 13: Read [John 15-16](#)

John 15 contains the classic analogy of the vine and branches representing our intimate relationship with him. Notice the repeated phrase -- remain in me. Our primary task each day is to stay connected to the Lord. He then can work in our lives and bear fruit through us. How do we remain in him? By obedience (v. 7, 12, 17).

Chapter 16 reminds us again of the crucial role of the Holy Spirit in living the Christian life. Here he couples prayer, along with obeying his word, as an essential act of faith. Notice his promise of answered prayer in verse 2. That passage merits memorizing and applying on a daily basis. Jesus promises you joy if you do!

**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 14: Read [John 17-19](#)

John records what is referred to as “Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer” in chapter 17. One third of the prayer deals with Jesus’ ministry on earth as led by the Father. Next, he prays for his immediate disciples who will need protection in his coming absence. Finally, beginning in verse 20, Jesus prays for all future believers, including us! Notice the emphasis on unity as of primary importance for the church today. How are we doing?

After praying, John 18 records Jesus’ betrayal and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus is taken to stand trial first before the Jewish leaders and then before Pilate, the Roman governor over Israel. John also includes Peter’s three denials of Christ in the early morning hours of the trial. Do you think you would have acted similarly to Peter under those conditions?

Chapter 19 records Pilate’s final verdict and the resultant crucifixion of Jesus at Golgotha. John reminds us that he was a personal witness of the event (v. 35) in fulfillment with Old Testament prophecy. Following Jesus’ death, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus step forward to take the body off the cross and offer it a decent burial in a nearby cemetery.

**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.