

**Friday**, July 6: Read [Acts 5-6](#)

Luke includes a somewhat curious account of two Christians who died as judgment for propagating a lie. Is that a sin worthy of death? Or, did their actions serve as a model to all believers of the seriousness of lying and its potential outcomes in a local church? The disciples once again are called to account by the Jewish leaders for preaching Jesus. Unwilling to back down, they were jailed, then miraculously freed by an angel and sent back to the temple to preach. Under careful scrutiny, they are flogged and released.

Chapter 6 presents the first inner church conflict -- inequality among the two races of people in the church. The office of deacon (servant) is here introduced as the disciples emphasize the distinction of their calling over meeting physical needs in the church. Stephen, one of those deacons, is singled out for his powerful testimony and called to account for accusations made by certain Jews against him and his Christian faith. The stage is set for his martyrdom in the next chapter.

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 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.*

**Monday**, July 2 Read [Luke 21-22](#)

Luke 21 presents Jesus' final instructions to his disciples as related to the second coming. Known as The Olivet Discourse, Matthew, Mark and Luke all record segments of this intimate discussion Jesus had with his disciples just a few days before his death. His admonition to them in verse 34 rings just as true for us today. Are you ready?

Chapter 22 brings us to the upper room, the last supper, and Jesus' betrayal and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and his trial before the Jewish ruling counsel.

Notes:

**Pray for:** ---My relationship with God

---My life roles

---My personal needs/weak areas

---My goals and objectives.

## Tuesday, July 3: Read [Luke 23-24](#)

Note the extensive detail Luke gives into the passion of Christ -- the humiliation of the Jewish leaders, the beatings by the soldiers and finally, his grizzly crucifixion and death at Golgotha. The chapter closes with Jesus' burial by Joseph and several women followers.

Like the crucifixion, Luke supplies ample details regarding Jesus' resurrection, beginning at the garden tomb; then the Emmaus account; back to the upper room in Jerusalem and finally, his ascension into heaven from a hillside in Bethany. So he closes his "orderly account" of Jesus' life, teaching and works.

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

## Wednesday July 4: Read [Acts 1-2](#)

From the gospel of Luke, we will now turn to Luke's account of the life of the early church, known as "The Acts of the Apostles". Chapter 1 picks up where his gospel left off, with the commissioning of the disciples and Jesus' ascension into heaven. The disciples regroup in Jerusalem, where they wait for the Holy Spirit to empower them as witnesses. Meanwhile, Matthias is chosen to replace Judas.

Acts 2 is really the "official kick off" of the Christian Church. Pentecost was an annual harvest festival, one of three times all Israel converged on Jerusalem. This time the Holy Spirit comes and initiates a great harvest of souls that continues to this day.

**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 our church anniversary as a testimony to Branch County.

## Thursday, July 5: Read [Acts 3-4](#)

Luke records the first of many Apostolic miracles in chapter 3. Peter again addresses the crowd as on the day of Pentecost. He explains the significance of the cripple's healing as it relates to Jesus' power, testifying to his resurrection. The religious elite hear about the incident and intervene in chapter 4. Peter and John are imprisoned and then given opportunity to testify to the Sanhedrin. They are strictly forbidden to continue preaching Christ, an order they ignore as they ask God for greater boldness. The chapter concludes with a summary of how the church in Jerusalem is faring. Like [Acts 2:42-47](#), the church continues to grow and flourish. It's influence is undeniable, God is building his kingdom, starting right in downtown Jerusalem! We are here today in part because of them.

**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.