

Friday, December 28: Read [*1 Peter 3*](#)

Peter addresses the need for domestic order in the home. He begins with the wives' assignments, and then continues addressing husbands. The goal is godly harmony and mutual submission to God. Peter returns to the theme of suffering as believers. Our assignment is to submit to the Lordship of Christ and continue to pursue righteousness. Again, their example is Jesus Christ, who persevered and eventually ascended to the Father as head over all.

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), ***Craig & Shelly Shafer*** (Sentani, Indonesia), ***Sue Saunders*** (Bosnia), ***Matt and Becky Kooi*** (Tijuana), ***Daniel Jezowski*** (Wycliffe), ***Andrew & Sara Williams*** (Ethnos360), ***Brad and Christa Babjack*** (University of West Virginia), ***Salomon and Megan Guzman*** (Tijuana), ***Alvaro and Rachel Garriga*** (Central Asia), ***William and Salma Garcia*** (Tijuana)

Thru the New!

(Reading through the New Testament in 2018)

- *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, December 24 Read [*Luke 1, John 1:1-18*](#)

Both Luke and John write a prologue of sorts to the earthly life of Christ. Luke sets the stage for the Savior's birth, giving historical data and details into angelic visits, preparing the way for John the Baptist's birth as a forerunner of the Messiah, and Jesus' birth as the promised savior. Notice both Zechariah and Mary's proclamations of who was coming and what his mission would be.

The first fourteen verses of John's gospel explain Christ in terms of the living Word now made flesh (incarnate). He is the "light of life" that came to outshine the darkness. He is the glory of the one true God, full of grace and truth, who came to reveal God to the world.

Notes:

Pray for: ---My relationship with God

---My life roles

---My personal needs/weak areas

---My goals and objectives.

Tuesday, December 25: Read [Luke 2:1-40](#)

Luke's record of Jesus' birth is the most familiar and extensive of the gospels. He describes Jesus' birth and then branches out beyond the manger scene to the temple dedication one month after Jesus' birth. Here Simeon and Anna affirm Jesus' identity as the one who would redeem Israel. Anna's message is also ours today -- to speak about the child to all who are seeking redemption.

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday December 26: Read [1 Peter 1](#)

We pick up in our New Testament reading schedule, attempting to survey 1-2 Peter during the rest of this week and next week as well. Peter introduces his Epistle as written to the elect, scattered by persecution throughout the Roman Empire. His message, while it applies to Gentiles, is probably written to Jewish Christians, encouraging to stand firm in their newfound faith in Jesus, even in the face of persecution.

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

1. Leadership: 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. Pray for the church council and the various ministry team leaders.
2. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
3. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers. Pray that we incorporate newcomers into our church fellowship.
4. Discipleship: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Pray for our small group ministry.
5. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. Ask God to embolden our people to intentionally reach out to others, especially during this Christmas season.
6. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our upcoming 2020 plan.

Thursday, December 27: Read [1 Peter 2](#)

Chapter two of 1 Peter could be summarized from verse 10 -- live as "the people of God". Christ is the chief building block of your life now so steer away from worldliness, submit to God's authority structure and serve him. The chapter closes with an encouragement to stand firm in persecution, looking to Jesus as the example for all who suffer unjustly. He is the shepherd and overseer of our souls.

Notes:

Thursday Pray for "My World"

(Write down names as God brings people to mind.)

- 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.