

Friday, January 31: Read [Ephesians 5:1-14](#)

Finish the week by retracing our steps through the first half of Ephesians 5. Live a life of love. Let that directive sink in. Love was the overarching characteristic of Jesus Christ. Note [1 John 4:9-12](#). What outstanding quality marks your life? Is it your friendliness, or your intelligence, or even your physical features? What would it take for others to recognize you by your love (like Jesus)? Notice verse two says he gave himself up sacrificially. That's what we are to imitate according to Ephesians 5:1. As we saw in 1 John 4, this all begins with God loving us. Take some time to pray. Ask God to impress you with just how much you are loved. Go back and read the prayer in [Ephesians 3:16-19](#). Pray that back to God and ask him then to channel his love through you to others. Be ready to sacrifice some time or some preferences this coming week, to go out of your way in order to follow Christ and model his love for others.

Friday: Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), , **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 church plant)

Week of
January 26
2020



Be the CHURCH is DISCIPLESHIP

Spiritual Disciplines Guide:

- *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, January 27 Read [Ephesians 5:1-14](#)

We pick up this week with Ephesians 5. This chapter continues the theme of practical Christian living. Included are several warnings against falling prey to sins of the flesh. Note the theme of darkness and light. [1 John 1:5-10](#) follows suit with much of what Paul is teaching in Ephesians 5.

Monday: Pray for yourself:

---My relationship with God

—My life roles and responsibilities

—My personal needs/weak areas

—My goals and objectives for 2020

Tuesday, January 28: Read [Ephesians 5:1-7](#)

Paul's admonition is to live a life of sacrificial love, Christ being our primary example. The opposite of that life is indulgent selfishness. Note the six or seven sins mentioned in this section. Compare these with several other lists of sins. Note the similarities and any exceptions. Which sins listed are most tempting for you at present and why?

[Ephesians 5:3-4](#) [Romans 1:29-31](#) [1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#) [Galatians 5:19-21](#)

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday, January 29: Read [Ephesians 5:8-14](#)

Today let's take the list of righteous acts and compare it to other lists of virtues Paul records in several of his writings. Which of these qualities can you affirm in you at present and which would you like to see developed? Ask God to produce greater fruits of his Spirit in your life in the coming days.

[Ephesians 5:9](#) [Romans 12:9-16](#) [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#) [Galatians 5:22-23](#)

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. Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up more workers for the harvest ([Matthew 9:38](#))
2. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for more musicians to help lead the church in worship, including a pianist. 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. Pray through this past Sunday's congregational prayer requests.

4. Discipleship: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Ask God to bless our small group ministry, to raise up new groups, new teachers and more leaders.
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 through the upcoming Kingdom Projects.
6. 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 as we call our members to a greater love and commitment to the Lord and his service. Ask God to bless our finances so that we can better accomplish his purposes for our congregation.

Thursday, January 30: Read [Ephesians 5:14](#)

How is sleep used as a metaphor in the Bible? Note [Proverbs 10:4-5](#), [Mark 13:32-27](#), [Romans 13:11-14](#), [1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#). Take to heart the admonition to be awake, alert and ready. Check yourself to be sure that you are not off guard in any area of your life and that you are living in the light of God's presence, power and grace. He wants us to be part of what he's doing. Don't miss it!

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?
- Community -- 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.
- Pray for the community parachurch ministries serving our county, including Beginnings Care for Life Center, Branch County Right to Life, Celebrate Recovery, Coach Eby Youth and Family Center, Damascus Road Ministry, Family Hope Outreach, Forgotten Man Ministries, Foster Closet of Branch County, God's Choice Church, Jacob's Well Ministry, Presbyterian Free Health Clinic, Shelterhouse, Tommy's House, the Gideons.
- America -- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.