

Friday, December 6: Read [John 4:1-42](#)

Perhaps the greatest of the good works is to share the gospel with someone who is spiritually lost without Christ. As God's workmanship, he wants to use us to share our faith in him with those who have no faith. He wants to employ us to point others to Christ. Like the women at the well, people are ignorant and misled. They may believe in God, but they don't understand how Jesus fits and how to entrust their lives to him. We model the advantages of following Christ to people around us.

Someone you know is searching for God. They're seeking love, meaning, peace, hope and power to live. All of these are available in a real relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Ask God to lead you to a modern day samaritan. I'll bet they're around. Maybe closer than you think. He who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Jesus Christ. ([Philippians 1:6](#)).

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
December 01
2019



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, December 2 Read [Luke 10:30-37](#)

Our study of Ephesians has led us to [Ephesians 2:10](#), where God says he made us, in part, for good works. This week, we will look at five different kinds of "good works" and consider how you and I can do better in each area.

The parable of the Good Samaritan gives a vivid picture of what compassion looks like in response to someone else's crisis. As you recall, the parable is pointed at the compassionless priest and Levite who did nothing in response to the men's need. Read [1 John 3:16-17](#) and [Proverbs 24:10-12](#). One way we live out our faith and do good works is by reaching out to others in need. Ask God to show you someone this week that you can physically help. Step out in faith as "God's workmanship"... and get to work!

Monday: Pray for yourself:

---My relationship with God

—My life roles and responsibilities

—My personal needs/weak areas

—My goals and objectives for the fall season

Tuesday, December 3: Read [John 6:1-15](#)

Branch County contains over a dozen parachurch ministries that are set up to meet specific needs in our community. Which ones are “feeding ministries”, helping people who need food? For sure the two Food Banks (our church helps monthly in Bronson). The Blessing Boxes contain basic food items. Family Hope Outreach feeds the homeless two meals a day. Jesus’ miracle in John 6 reminds us of his power to provide for peoples’ most basic need, food. Like the manna in the wilderness, God has the resources to sustain all who look to him in need. Do you have enough to eat? Do you, by chance, know someone who doesn’t? One of the “good works” God has prepared in advance could be to share our excesses with those who are short. Like the boy in the story, God can easily multiply what we have if we are willing to share it.

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday December 4: Read [Matthew 8-9](#)

Perhaps the most common miracle of Christ was healing sickness (possibly because sickness and disease was so prevalent in primitive, under-developed societies). Note the varieties of sicknesses Jesus addresses in these two chapters. In many cases, Jesus required faith of his subjects, in others he simply healed out of compassion. At the end of chapter 9, he directs his disciples to pray for more workers to help in the harvest field. You and I answer that prayer as we reach out in his name to help any who are suffering with pain, disease or even oppression from the devil. Who do you know that’s sick, in pain or possibly in the hospital? As God’s workmanship, would you step out and visit the sick and suffering? Would you pray for their healing? Would you be an extension of Jesus’ mercy ministry to any who are struggling with health and physical needs?

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 Kingdom Assignments and 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, December 5: Read [Luke 8:26-39](#)

One of the more sensational works of Jesus was driving out demons. Note also [Luke 11:14-26](#). What insights on Jesus’ authority over the satanic can you draw from these two passages in Luke? Our question today is how do these principles transfer to us in our time? One of the “good works” God is calling us to is to help people who are under the influence of the demonic. In one sense, this is a specialty ministry for a few who are more spiritually trained or sensitive. On the other hand, all of us can help deliver people from the power of the devil. Demonic power typically manifests in someone who is trapped in gross or extreme kinds of sins, including drug and alcohol addictions and criminal activity. Several local ministries routinely cross paths with people oppressed by the devil, including Damascus Road, Celebrate Recovery, Forgotten Man Ministry and Tommy’s House. Pray for these. Is there anything you can do to help?

Thursday: Pray for “My World”

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

- Neighbors • People who live around me. (Focus Four)
- 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 of Branch County, Jacob’s Well Ministry, Presbyterian Free Health Clinic, Shelterhouse, Tommy’s House.
- America -- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.