

Friday, December 27: Read [John 1:1-14](#)

While Mark gives no account at all of Jesus' nativity, John includes his incarnation in his gospel's prologue, albeit in somewhat general terms. Notice John's references to the light coming into the world, reminiscent of [Isaiah 9:2 and John 3:19-21](#). Verse 14 is one of the clearest expressions of the incarnation in scripture. See also [Philippians 2:6-8 and 1 Timothy 3:16](#). Immanuel, God with us. Jesus, our faithful high priest, is with us. Now he ever lives to make intercession for us ([Hebrews 7:23-28](#)).

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 22
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 23 Read [Isaiah 7:10-17](#)

We'll take time out this week to review the Christmas story as related to us by several different Biblical authors. Isaiah gives two parallel predictions. One is the sign of the virgin, which will signal when Immanuel is coming. The second tells us who Immanuel will be -- a child, a son, a governor, divine. Read both prophecies and realize that the Jewish nation at Isaiah's time would wait some 7 centuries for the predictions to finally come to pass. They would look forward to what we now commemorate.

Monday: Pray for yourself:

---My relationship with God

—My life roles and responsibilities

—My personal needs/weak areas

—My goals and objectives to finish out 2019

Tuesday, December 24: Read [Luke 1](#)

Luke gives us the most details about Jesus' birth. More than that, he lays out the backdrop to his coming by setting the stage with details on the secular/political front as well as background information on John the Baptist's parents and his birth. He also includes Gabriel's birth announcement to Mary. Notice the several references to the work of the Holy Spirit in chapter one, along with the insights given as to Jesus' dual nature -- human and divine.

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday December 25: Read [Luke 2](#)

Luke 2 is the traditional Christmas text with the familiar account of Jesus' birth, apparitions of angels, shepherds and the two visits to the temple during Jesus' first month of life. Luke also gives us the only Biblical reference to Jesus' youth in the family Passover pilgrimage to Jerusalem at age 12. No more details are given until Jesus appears at the Jordan River.

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 26: Read [Matthew 1:18 - 2:23](#)

Matthew adds further details to the birth of Christ, recounting Joseph's dilemma when he discovered Mary's pregnancy. He alone tells of the arrival of the Magi and the family's quick exodus to Egypt to avoid Herod's deadly wrath. God's prediction of the serpent's quest to strike down the seed of Eve has begun ([Genesis 3:15](#))

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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, 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.