Friday, March 1: Read Psalms 19-21, Proverbs 1

Psalm 19 affirms the powerful revelation of God to the world, beginning with his works (creation) and then his actual words (scripture). Next chance you get, step outside on a starry night and worship the magnificence of God witnessed by his creation. Take note of the virtues of scripture as stated in verses 7-11. Note the specific rewards in living by God's word.

Psalm 20 can be split in half. The first 5 verses are a prayer for mercy, hoping to see God's help. Verse 6 and following write as though God's answer has been delivered and he has in fact come through with "the saving power of his right hand". From personal experience, David declares his confidence in God over the glory of kings -- many horses and chariots! Can you say the same?

The month of March will add a chapter of Proverbs to our daily reading. Pay close attention to Solomon's wise words. Chapter 1 outlines the specific benefits Proverbs can add to the life of one who adheres to their teaching. Is that you?

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 church plant)



Reading through Psalms and Proverbs

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 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, February 25 Read Psalms 11-12, Romans 12

Both of today's Psalms deal with rampant wickedness and its impact on believers. How do we respond when society is morally declining? When evil is progressively being promoted? When "what is vile is honored among men"? Note David's right responses -- to call out to God for help and vindication. At the same time, David affirms God's righteous character, his disdain for all wrongdoing and God's ultimate intent to punish evil.

Take time this week to study Romans 12. Note the emphasis on right relationships, both within the church and with outsiders. Verses 1-2 would be good verses to commit to memory.

Notes:

- *Pray for:* ---My relationship with God
 - ---My life roles
 - ---My personal needs/weak areas
 - ---My goals and objectives.

Tuesday, February 26: Read <u>Psalms 13-14</u>

Psalms 13 and 14 further lament the impact of evil on our daily lives. Note David's struggle in trusting in God's timing to act on his belief. He is quick to share his doubts but also resolved to trust God in his negative circumstances. Can you relate? Both Psalms begin on a negative note but end with confidence and hope in God.

Tuesday: pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday February 27: Read Psalms 15-16

Want to live and steady and stable life? Read carefully Psalm 15 and take note of David's list of attributes listed here. Check yourself with each one and ask God to make you that kind of person.

Psalm 16 is a beautiful declaration of God's personal attention and blessing to the one who wholeheartedly trusts in him. Note the advantages David suggests can be yours by experience when you "set the Lord always before you". Psalm 16 serves as a great source of remembrance and encouragement when you are tempted to doubt God and his hand upon your life. Use it as such when necessary.

Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church

- 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. <u>Worship</u>: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for more musicians to help lead the church in worship. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
- 3. <u>Fellowship</u>: Pray that God would deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers. Pray that we incorporate newcomers into our church fellowship.
- 4. <u>Discipleship</u>: 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. <u>Outreach</u>: 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 Initiative.
- 6. <u>Future Faith Goals</u>: 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, February 28: Read <u>Psalms 17-18</u>

Psalm 17 is a prayer of vindication. David reminds God of his faithfulness to him, while asking God to judge the wicked who torment him. There is a place in prayer for Christians to, so to speak, "argue their case" before God. This Psalm is an example of that.

Psalm 18 gives a historical context to David's words. It was apparently written before he had become king, while on the run from an enraged King Saul. Some of that context can be followed in <u>1 Samuel 21-27</u>. As an innocent man, unjustly accused and now on the run, David again looks to God as his protector and judge. The Psalm contains powerful imagery and profound truth as to who God actually is and what he does on behalf of those who will fully trust him. Read it meditatively and affirm your own faith in God as "your rock, your fortress and your deliverer".

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.