

Friday, April 5: Read [*Psalms 69-70, Ecclesiastes 5*](#)

Psalms 69 is a lengthy call for help and deliverance. David seems to be referring to circumstances where he is partly to blame for his dilemma. And so, he asks God for mercy on his behalf as well as justice for those who mock and scorn him. He describes his life as though he is sinking down into the muck and mire and appeals to God's love and mercy for help. He vows to sing God's praises as a result of his deliverance (verses 30-32).

Psalms 70 is a short and succinct call for help, where David describes himself as poor and needy. King David's humility and transparency serves us today as a model for praying to God in our own need.

Ecclesiastes 5 opens with several proverbs warning against foolishness and presumption in worshipping God. Solomon then shifts the emphasis to wealth and riches, arguing that money is of no advantage in the ultimate search for meaning. Verses 18-20 are an excellent conclusion of what a person can ultimately hope for in this life of labor and toil.

Notes:

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)

31 MARCH
SUNDAY
2019



Be the CHURCH is DISCIPLESHIP

Spiritual Disciplines Guide: Reading through Psalms and Proverbs

- 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, April 1 Read [*Psalms 61-62, Ecclesiastes 1*](#)

Psalms 61 and 62 reveal God as our rock, fortress, refuge and deliverer! In him, we can find safety, rest and refreshment. King David models how to pray to God at stressful times and then lean into him for security, assurance and repose. We would do well to follow his example daily!

Leaving Proverbs, we now go to Solomon's mysterious book, Ecclesiastes. The book is in part an autobiographical search for meaning as King Solomon experiments with everything there is to do "under the sun". He continually comes up empty handed, declaring that everything is meaningless (everything apart from God, that is). Reach chapter one.

Notes:

Pray for: ---My relationship with God

---My life roles

---My personal needs/weak areas

---My goals and objectives.

Tuesday, April 2: Read [*Psalms 63-64, Ecclesiastes 2*](#)

Both of today's Psalms are short and succinct. Psalm 63 further expresses David's need for God, described as a thirsty and unsatiated soul. Psalm 64 outlines David's complaint against the various enemies that seek his downfall and demise. As is typical, the Psalm ends on a positive note with a declaration of hope in God who is faithful to save.

In Ecclesiastes 2, Solomon dedicates himself to the pursuit of pleasure in order to find meaning. Concluding that earthly pleasures are meaningless, he sets out to accomplish what pleases God.

Tuesday: pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday April 3: Read [*Psalms 65-66, Ecclesiastes 3*](#)

Psalm 65 is a classic praise Psalm where King David calls his audience to consider the variety of ways that God works in the world of nature. He invites us to join the created order in praising God for his "awesome deeds". Psalm 66 continues the theme of praises to God acknowledging God's personal dealings with Israel, testing and refining them through adversity. David's conclusion is that God has now brought them to a place of abundance. Can you say the same? If so, praise him for it!

Ecclesiastes chapter 3 marks the classic passage of God's purposes carried out through time. Timing is everything. It can also be confusing and even frustrating. The mystery of life is how God works his eternal purposes into our temporal reality on earth.

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, especially a pianist. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
3. **Fellowship:** 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. **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 Initiative.
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, April 4: Read [*Psalms 67-68, Ecclesiastes 4*](#)

Psalm 67 is a short prayer song, asking for God's blessing in life. These seven short verses have been sung for centuries with all varieties of melodies. May God be gracious to us and bless us!

Psalm 68 is a warrior's song of victory. The armies of Israel look to God for divine help and intervention in battle. Summon your power and show us your strength, O God, as you have done before (verse 28).

In Ecclesiastes 4, Solomon laments the inequities and injustices of life and the inevitable sufferings that come from both. His confession again is the meaninglessness of a life devoid of the divine.

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.