

Friday, January 29: Read [*1 Peter 2*](#)

Peter exhorts Christians to grow up in their faith. Part of growing in faith is growing in the knowledge of God and his word. The Old Testament makes up about 2/3 of the Bible and gives a several thousand year history of God's interactions with the nation of Israel. The New Testament is based on God's Old Testament revelation fulfilled in Christ and now manifest in us as the church. Verses 4-10 give various examples of this fulfillment in us today. Next week we will begin the journey through Old Testament history, one that will probably take us into the fall months of the year. I hope you are ready for the trip!

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), **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), **Brendan and Ashley Camp** (Columbia)

Week of
January 24
2021



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, examples to follow, 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 25: Read [*Acts 7*](#)

Before we dig into the Old Testament starting next week, let's continue to highlight several New Testament passages which serve as commentaries and give explanation to the Old Testament law. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, gives a great overview of Jewish history just before he is executed. Notice how he ties the Jews of his day into the sins of previous generations of circumcised Hebrews. Our assignment today is the same as theirs then -- repent and believe.

Monday: Pray for yourself:

My relationship with God

My life roles and responsibilities

My personal needs/weak areas

My goals and objectives for 2021

Tuesday, January 26: Read [Acts 15](#)

The Jerusalem Council occurred when the Apostle Paul travels to Jerusalem to explain his gospel in defense to Jewish Christians who are doubtful that Gentiles can be saved unless they become Jewish. Notice the few restrictions put on non-Jewish Christians, including us, from that time. The moral law included in the Ten Commandments is reiterated throughout the New Testament and thus binding for Gentile believers. The one exception could be the keeping of the Jewish Sabbath. Note ([Exodus 20:8-11](#), [Romans 14:5-8](#), [Colossians 2:16-23](#))

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday, January 27: Read [Galatians 2-3](#)

Paul writes the letter of Galatians to a group of new Gentile believers who are being swayed by Jews to convert to Judaism. Note ([Galatians 4:21-31](#)). Chapter 3:19 really asks the key question for us -- what was the purpose for the law? Note Paul's answer in chapter 3, along with [Romans 3:20-28](#).

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. Take some time to 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.
6. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our future plans 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 28: Read [James 2](#)

The book of James has been called "The Proverbs of the New Testament". His book is full of short paragraphs dealing with all kinds of topics and presenting practical directives and applications for us. Chapter two brings in the royal law ([Leviticus 19:18](#)). Jesus highlighted it also and so we draw from an Old Testament command instruction for living the Christian life today. James also uses Abraham as an example of true faith doing good works of obedience. Again, we would do well to be reminded that, as New Testament believers, we are saved by faith alone. But, according to James, saving faith is never alone. It is accompanied by works. What works give evidence to your faith today?

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?
- Community -- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County, even through the Coronavirus crisis.
- Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation, especially as churches reunite after the quarantine.
- 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 Promise, 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 and the Bronson Food Pantry.
- America: Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America. Pray that God would use the Coronavirus outbreak to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for God's guidance and protection through this election cycle and into 2021.