

Friday, May 22: Read [Genesis 28. 32-33](#)

Jacob is by far the most fiery character we've considered in Genesis so far. Chapter 28 launches him into a great adventure. Notice the conditions he put on God in verses 20-22. Skip forward four chapters and some fourteen years to [Genesis 32](#). God has instructed Jacob to leave Haran and return to this father's land where his own life could be in danger. He obeys and God shows up! Notice the struggle that occurs and the mercy and faithfulness of God manifest in the drama of his life circumstances. Like his father and his grandfather before him, Jacob now "Israel," builds an altar and worships the one true God, the one who would nickname himself "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

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

Week of
May 17
2020



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, May 18: Read [Genesis 3](#)

Lately, we have been considering various tests of faith and ways that God wants us to respond. Let's go way back this week and examine five old time believers from the book of Genesis. We'll glean some insights and instruction that we can apply in our present Corona crisis.

Genesis 3 and the fall into sin sets the stage for every subsequent dilemma and crisis throughout history up to our present time. Notice the role of Satan in planting doubt in God's goodness and twisting God's instructions. Next, watch the first couple willingly step out from God's headship. Their sin brings degrees of fallout on the world. Are you presently tempted to doubt God's character or disobey his word? Steer clear of sin by following your instructions in [James 4:7](#) and [1 Corinthians 10:13](#). Reaffirm your faith in God and your willingness to obey him.

Monday: Pray for yourself:

- My relationship with God
- My life roles and responsibilities
- My personal needs/weak areas
- My goals and objectives for 2020

Tuesday, May 19: Read [Genesis 6:8-9](#).

Take some time to consider the test of Noah in his generation and the covenant that God establishes with him because of his faithful obedience. He is considered a model of faith for us today, according to Hebrews 11:7. Remember, Jesus said that the last days would be like the days of Noah. ([Matthew 24:36-39](#), [Genesis 6:5-7](#)). Are we edging up to that time?

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday May 20: Read [Genesis 22:1-19](#)

[Hebrews 11:17-19](#) states that the offering of Isaac was a specific test of God in Abraham's life. Abraham trusted that God knew what he was doing and acted in obedience. His example is both impressive and instructive. Who of us would risk our family and future in order to follow God's leading into what appears to be a totally questionable direction? Apparently, Abraham knew God well enough to fully trust him. Do you? We tend to trust people to the degree that we know them—and know that they are reliable. What is God asking you to do that may involve personal risk or uncertainty? Is there something specific he's leading you to do? And, are you following his lead or hesitating? Notice God's affirmation of Abraham and the blessings he promises him because of his obedience. Could God have certain blessings "on hold" for us, conditioned on our obedience to his leading? What are you waiting for? Step out in faith and trust God to lead you forward. He will further confirm his will as you do.

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 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, May 21: Read [Genesis 26-27](#)

Isaac, the son of promise, like Abraham was true to God throughout his life. Though we are not given much detail about him in scripture. He followed God's instructions and was greatly blessed by God. God reiterates his covenant with him in chapter 26:3-5. Like his dad, however, he was not without fault when it came to defending his wife over his own life. Nonetheless, he is mentioned in [Hebrews 11:20](#) as one of the great men of faith in scripture.

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.
- 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, Shelter house, 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.