

Friday, May 29: Read [Genesis 49-50](#)

There's a happy ending to Joseph's story. The entire clan comes back together, older, wiser and much more numerous than years prior. Read carefully Jacob's blessings to each of his sons and his prophecies concerning them. We fathers and grandfathers might learn something from Jacob, something he personally experienced from his own father's blessing. There's power in spoken words. Be careful what you say to others. Joseph once again passes an important life test in chapter 50:19-21. Forgiveness wins the day. It certainly won our day as well. And now God commands us to forgive others as he has forgiven us ([Ephesians 4:32](#)). Is your slate clean? Are you holding any grudges? Take a cue from a man who was majorly mistreated, wrongly accused, forgotten and yet rose above the opposition to a place of world leadership. God is judge, not you and I. Our assignment is to submit to his leadership and trust his timing and judgment, and daily walk through our particular circumstances in simple faith and obedience..

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 24
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 25: Read [Genesis 37](#)

Along with Abraham, Joseph occupies much of the book of Genesis. What is it about his life story that Moses felt compelled to give more details and information? Read this opening chapter with insight and care. How is it that things could go so bad for someone who was so blessed by God and apparently innocent as well? Notice how God begins to prepare him for "higher service", even while exposing him to difficulty and injustice. Any hard things happening in your life at present that God may be orchestrating for your eventual good and his glory? Reread [Romans 8:28](#) and entrust your life and present circumstances to him. He is working this together according to a plan. And we are part of it!

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 26: Read [Genesis 39](#)

Again things seem to be improving for Joseph until he is falsely accused and the bottom drops out on his life! Verse 3 and 21 have to be a point of encouragement for us today as well. If God is present in my daily life, I am capable of withstanding whatever comes my way. Without a sense of God's presence, however, I will eventually falter and wilt, even when all else seems fine and good. Take [Philippians 4:5](#) to heart today. Thank God for the promise of his presence, even when it isn't felt or obvious. Reread that entire paragraph (verses 4-9) and invite the Holy Spirit to endwell your heart and mindset as you go through the day. Watch for his promptings and leading at any points of uncertainty or need.

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday, May 27: Read [Genesis 40 - 41](#)

These seem to be the forgotten years. Routine prison life for Joseph, apparently forgotten by God with no certainty his future would get any better. Ever been there or felt that way? What we see here is an excellent example of God's timing. God can do more in an instant than we could ever do in a thousand lifetimes! And he doesn't need our help. But he does want to work in and through our lives if we'll trust him. Joseph impresses Pharaoh. "This man in whom lives the spirit of God". We read in a few chapters what took some 30 years to develop. Again, God's timing and purposes are paramount. May God position you and I for his time and purpose in our day as well!

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.

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 28: Read [Genesis 45](#)

We'll skip forward to the point where Joseph opens up to his brothers, both to their horror and delight! (Feel free to read the details in [chapters 42-44](#)). Notice Joseph's sense of destiny as he reassures his brothers of God's workings in and through all the family drama. Suddenly, childhood dreams are coming true. The older brothers subject themselves to the younger. And in so doing their future is suddenly secure as well. Have you seen any of your childhood dreams come true -- for better or worse? Again, God has a time for everything. ([Ecclesiastes 3:1](#))

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.