

Week of  
June 7  
2020



Be the CHURCH is DISCIPLESHIP

**Friday**, June 12: Read [John 12:1-8](#)

Mary, Martha and Lazarus show up in the gospels several times. Apparently, they were good friends of Jesus. He felt comfortable around them. He might have even stayed at their house outside Jerusalem when he travelled in the region. In this account, Mary expresses her love for the Savior through a major sacrifice. Nard was often savored by single women to be used on their wedding day as a fragrant perfume for their groom. Whether Mary would eventually be married or not, she gives up what must have been her most precious personal possession, something Judas figured was worth a years' salary. She "wastes" it on Jesus' feet. And he receives it as an anointing for his coming burial (something Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea didn't fully have time to do!) ([John 19:38-42](#)). Do you own anything that you could never give away? Not even to the Lord? Love gives sacrificially. Even when others do not understand why you're doing it. And remember, Jesus said, "Whatever you do to the least of these you've done it unto me". ([Matthew 25:40](#))

**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)

**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**, June 8: Read [Luke 10:25-37](#)

As we progressively come out of the quarantine, let's take some time this week to consider what love does. If we love God, how should we live? Start with the greatest commandment in Luke 10, which leads into loving our neighbors as illustrated by the parable of the Good Samaritan. People are struggling both with the fallout of the corona crisis and the recent social unrest and racial strife. Our neighbors need help. What would love do? What have you got to offer others? Who specifically is your neighbor in need? Ask God to make you into a "Good Samaritan" on behalf of others and follow his leading.

**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, June 9: Read [Mark 6:30-44](#)

Mid-chapter in Mark 6, John the Baptist is executed. The word reaches Jesus and his disciples as they are debriefing a missions trip (verses 7-12). Under the weight of the ministry, Jesus pulls his disciples aside for some much needed R & R. Unfortunately the crowds see them retreat and follow. Notice Jesus' response, in spite of the interruption. He selflessly extends his hand to help and heal and feed the hungry. Does God have permission to interrupt your plans for the sake of others, even when you're tired and in need of a break? Love sees beyond impositions and interruptions to real needs and concerns. Watch for something similar in your life circumstances in the coming days. Be ready to sacrifice your desires for someone else's sake.

**Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.**

## Wednesday June 10: Read [John 4:1-42](#)

The context of this event is conflict. Doubts and concerns are arising among the Pharisees over Jesus' growing influence and popularity. He must be silenced. Jesus takes his disciples into "enemy territory", Samaria. Read carefully this familiar passage. Note Jesus' approach, the Samaritan women's defenses and the disciples' surprise. Notice also the impact Jesus has on the village, possibly paving the way for a future revival in Samaria ([Acts 8:5-17](#)).

Who are "the Samaritans" in our community? Do you know any? How should love (like Jesus) relate to them? Is God prompting you to do something specific to reach out to break the ice with someone who in some form is an "outsider"? Ask him for direction and be ready to follow his leading. Revival could result!

### **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, June 11: Read [Mark 2:1-12](#)

This week we are asking the question: "What does love do?" Note the effort of the four friends who bring the paralytic to the feet of Jesus. They would not be deterred by the naysayers, the crowded conditions or physical barriers. What great friends! What a great deed! What great results! Forgiveness of sins and physical wellness! Do you know someone who won't get to Christ without help? Are you open to being the kind of friend that will do whatever is necessary to help? Are there others you could invite to team up and reach out together to help? God's able to do a lot through us if we are willing to be used. Make yourself available to him and be ready to act as he prompts you.

### **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 Hope Outreach, 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.