

Friday, June 19: Read [1 Peter 3:8-17](#)

As Christians, we need assurance that we are living within God's will (one of our ongoing hopes). Suffering and difficulties often cause us to doubt or question whether God is working in, through and around us. Peter, writing to a suffering and persecuted church, encourages them to hang tough. He also reminds them that others are watching their testimonies and that they will surely ask for an explanation of their hope (positive outlook in spite of negative circumstances). Are you there? Have you gone through this quarantine with a positive outlook? Can others notice a difference in our attitude versus the average person around you? And, if they ask, what will you tell them? What is your hope in life? And how can they get what you've got? Therein lies our assignment. Let's reinforce both our personal hopes in God and our commitment to share that hope with others. When you do, your very life becomes a kind of beacon of hope to others around you.

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
June 14
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, June 15: Read [Matthew 19:16-26](#)

This week we want to ask and answer the question, "What are people hoping for?" Hope involves looking into the future with expectation. It is anticipating something good, better or necessary. The Corona Crisis has many wondering what the future holds. If the world can come to a stop over a microscopic bug, how secure are we? And what major challenges or changes await us in the coming years? And where can we find a greater sense of security in uncertain times?

The Rich Young Ruler of Matthew 19 asks the question we all want to ask: "How can I get LIFE?" Is there a guarantee for a perfect world and a perfect future? Does it exist? Is it possible to attain? If so, how? Read carefully this account of Jesus' interaction with a sincere but misguided individual. Do you know anyone like him? How would you advise that person? Why do you suppose Jesus asked him to sell all he had? Does he ask the same of you and I? Why or why not? Where else does Jesus offer eternal life and how is it attained?

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 16: Read [John 1:1-14](#)

John opens his gospel with a kind of prologue; a general introduction to Jesus. He starts big, and then spends 21 chapters going through the details. Notice the words “Life” and “Light” in this passage. What does “light” mean or signify? What kind of “Life” is John referring to in verse 4? (Note also [John 3:14-21; :25-26, 39-40; 8:12; 10:9-10; 20:30-31](#)). Do you see the theme here? Can people find God apart from his revelation in Jesus Christ? John claims that Jesus is “the Light of Life”. He is the source of eternal life and the only way to an abundant life. Whether they know it or not, people hoping to find fulfillment in their lives; real life; a meaningful existence, ultimately, want God! Are you willing to point others to him? Where can you begin?

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday June 17: Read [John 7:14-39](#)

Jesus makes his way to the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem amidst some heavy controversy over his identity. On the last day, at the moment when the Jews took big pots of water and poured them out over the sand, Jesus declares himself the ultimate “thirst quencher”. What are people thirsty for? Where are they looking to satisfy their deepest desires? What does Jesus suggest here to fulfill their deep needs? (See also [John 4:10-15](#)). How can we explain God to thirsty people who are looking for satisfaction in material things, in pleasure or human accomplishments? What does our church have to offer them? And how does your own life demonstrate the “Living Water” that they ultimately want? Ask God’s Spirit to flow freely through your life to those he brings across your path each day. Be ready for him to use you.

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 18: Read [John 15:1-17](#)

People are not only hoping for a better life and a better world, invariably they want to become better people. They want to make a positive difference in the world. How is that done? And what ultimately matters in the end?

Jesus assures his followers that God wants us to live effective and productive lives; to be “fruitful”. According to his analogy, how should people do this? What’s the power source for our productivity? And what kind of product (fruit) should we be producing?

Check yourself. Are you abiding (remaining in close connection daily) with the Lord? God alone can fulfill our hopes to make a difference in the world. And he will do it to the degree that we entrust ourselves to him, day in and day out. The primary fruit will be seen in our loving relationships with others. Draw close to him today and invite him to bear fruit through your life and relationships.

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.