

**Friday**, October 23: Read [\*Proverbs 15\*](#)

Proverbs are referred to as “the sayings of the wise”. They are general truths, maxims which describe reality as it normally is. They are not necessarily absolute truths nor are they promises of how things will turn out. Again, they are generalizations. For example, verse 22 -- *plans fail for lack of counsel* is not an absolute statement. There are plenty of reasons why someone’s plan might fail. But, no doubt, a primary reason could be because the person failed to consult with others for insight or help. And so, the general principle or point is -- consult with good counsel when you are planning something and it is more likely to succeed. That’s wise planning and that’s the kind of thing that Proverbs promotes.

**My key verse:**

**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  
October 18  
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.*

Our spiritual disciplines the next six weeks will take us through the book of Proverbs. Solomon’s proverbs highlight godly wisdom and many ways it is expressed in daily living, habits, decisions and relationships. In his book, he contrasts such things as wisdom and foolishness, duty and laziness, good and evil, honesty and deceit, humility and pride. Each day you will survey a chapter, highlight the themes Solomon presents, and then record a key verse that stands out in the text for you personally. Be ready to share what you are learning each week in church or in your small group.

**Monday**, October 19: Read [\*Proverbs 11\*](#)

As we continue to work our way through the Proverbs this week, pay attention to the various contrasts that Solomon highlights in each chapter and continue to key in on one or two passages that especially speak to you each day. Note one verse as your key passage and consider memorizing it. Think through personal applications of the various truths to your life experiences at this time.

**My key verse:**

**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**, October 20: Read [\*Proverbs 12\*](#)

Notice the emphasis on words in this chapter. From the fruit of his lips, a man is filled with good things. Again, Solomon frequently contrasts the benefits of honesty and good speech versus insults and lies. What kinds of fruit have your lips borne over the years? Any changes in speech patterns necessary in your case? A wise person speaks with clarity, grace and poise. Let's practice the same!

**My key verse:**

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

**Wednesday**, October 21: Read [\*Proverbs 13\*](#)

He who walks with the wise grows wise (verse 20). Wisdom is more caught than taught. You gain wisdom in life experiences, but also by being around those who are wise. There's no instamatic approach to becoming wise. But there are faster ways to grow in wisdom, one of which is exposing yourself to godly counsel and advice, and following suit. Who's a wiser person of influence in your life at the moment? If you don't know, ask God to bring godly people into your life so that you can grow in godly wisdom. His word and his Spirit will sharpen you as you seek him and frequently "walk with the wise".

**My key verse:**

**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 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**, October 22: Read [\*Proverbs 14\*](#)

In Proverbs, prudence and discipline are similes for the concept of wisdom. They are often used interchangeably. Notice verse 8, where a fool is self-deceived. Fools despise wisdom and discipline ([\*1:7\*](#)). Again, wisdom is skill in living life. It takes knowledge and applies it to life. This takes work. It requires prudence and discipline. And, it is worth the effort. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you. ([\*9:10\*](#))

**My key verse:**

**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 in the upcoming elections.