

Friday, February 14: Read [Ephesians 6:5-9](#)

This passage challenges our thinking on slavery. Does the Bible endorse slavery? (Note Titus 2:9, 1 Corinthians 7:20-24) Like wives to Christ, slaves are to relate to their masters like they do to Christ. Note the verbs Paul chooses -- respect, fear, obey, serve, doing good. He promises a reward for Christian slaves who serve faithfully. Notice next, Masters are to relate to their slaves "in the same way". While we don't have slavery in our society, the principles Paul spells out here relate to employee/employer relationships. In the business/commerce world, Christians are to live out their faith in a way that honors God and their colleagues at work. (See also [Colossians 3:22 - 4:1](#), [1 Peter 2:13-20](#)).

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
February 9
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, February 10 Read [Ephesians 5:21-6:9](#)

The Apostle Paul shifts focus from basic Christian living to the area of social relationships starting with the family. Read the passage. Note any questions that come to mind as you read. We'll dig in deeper this week and work on gaining a greater understanding of how God desires us to relate to one another in the family and beyond. A parallel passage is [Colossians 3:18-4:1](#).

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, February 11: Read [Ephesians 5:21-24](#)

God has a design for how things are to run in the world. Family is one of his social institutes and his plan for every family begins with marriage. Go back and read [Genesis 1:26 - 3; 2:18-25](#). Note his ideal of two being one. Notice they together form the image of God. They are equal but not the same -- one is male, one female. The wife is a suitable helper to the husband. In Ephesians 5, Paul calls for mutual submission of believers (verse 21) but then tells wives to submit to husbands as they do to the Lord, and as the church does to Christ. When husbands lead like Christ, most wives have no problem following their leadership. More to be said tomorrow.

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday February 12: Read [Ephesians 5:25-33](#)

What [Colossians 3:19](#) says in one verse, Ephesians says in nine verses. Husbands have the high and hard calling of leadership in marriage and family. Their model is Jesus Christ and his sacrificial love for the church. The husband leads by sacrificially serving the needs of his wife. The second example Paul uses is loving wives as men love their own bodies. Men are to nourish and cherish their wives. When they do, wives have no problem submitting to their leadership and respecting them. See also [1 Corinthians 7:1-6](#).

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, February 13: Read [Ephesians 6:1-4](#)

In chapter six, Paul turns briefly to parent/child relationships and responsibilities. He quotes the fifth commandment. (Note the content in [Deuteronomy 5:16; 6:1-9](#).) Children honor their parents by obeying them. Parents, likewise, are to train and instruct their kids in the ways of the Lord. Discipleship is the mandate of the church, but it begins in the home. Children raised in the Christian faith are miles ahead of those who aren't. One of the greatest instructors of kids is the example set by their parents. Parents model the Christians life daily for their children. Out of their example, then, they discipline and instruct them. Where modelling and training are lacking or inconsistent, children will be "exasperated". See also [Proverbs 3:1-12](#).

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 this Sunday?
- **Community** -- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County.
- 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, 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.