

**Friday**, May 8: Read [\*Nehemiah 1:1-11\*](#)

Nehemiah, like Daniel, finds himself in exile in Babylon. Both were servants of the king. News of the destruction and chaos of Jerusalem breaks Nehemiah's heart. Like Daniel, he humbles himself before God and prays on behalf of the nation. He likewise confesses the sins of Israel, and also appeals to the mercy of God and his promises of restoration. Note also at stake once more is the glory of God revealed in his covenant people (His name is mentioned in both 9 and 11).

In what sense is God's reputation at stake in your and my testimony? People who know we are Christians gather information about our God by watching us. Our lives reflect his reality and his character to the world. We cannot afford to misrepresent him! He has given us his name and wants to work through us for his name's sake (his reputation, his glory). Like Nehemiah, we should humbly seek his assistance in the daily tasks and responsibilities he has given us.

**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 3  
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 4: Read [\*Psalm 90\*](#)

Following up Sunday's message on repentance, we will take this week to look at a variety of Old Testament saints who call out to God in crisis. Each is humbled by their own circumstances and so seeks God's forgiveness, mercy and restoration. We, as individuals, as a church and as a nation can learn from their examples. In Psalm 90, Moses contrasts the transitoriness of human life and suffering with the eternity of God. Take note of Moses' specific requests in light of his lot of seemingly meaningless wanderings in the desert for some forty years.

**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 5: Read [Jonah 2:1 - 3:10](#)

Jonah calls out to God when he has gone down about as low as anyone can get -- to the roots of the mountains beneath the sea! Note the lesson he has learned in verse 8 and the vow he makes in verse 9. In chapter three he makes good on his promises to God and Ninevah responds. Have you ever made promises to God when you were at a low point of life? Have you followed through? Note [Psalms 116:8-14](#).

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

## **Wednesday**, May 6: Read [Lamentations 3](#)

Jeremiah has been coined "the Weeping Prophet". He warns Judah of their coming exile to Babylon unless they repent. His message is unheeded. No one responds. The entire nation is ravaged by the Babylonian army and forcibly taken from their land into a foreign land as slaves. Jeremiah not only sees this occur, he himself suffers immensely and is exiled. Lamentations is exactly that, his personal laments for his people, God's city Jerusalem and the temple. Chapter 3 is an expression of his own suffering and despair. We find a glimpse of hope there though, God is not through with Israel. It looks like it's all over for them, but Jeremiah declares God's mercy, steadfast love and compassion even in the middle of devastation and despair. Read [Jeremiah 31](#) for a glimpse of what God will eventually do for the nation of Israel. Their suffering is not terminal -- it's transformitory! It can be for us as well -- if we learn from it!

**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**, May 7: Read [Daniel 9:1-19](#)

Daniel's prayer for Israel is a classic example of true penitence and humility. As far as we know, Daniel was upright and integral in all his ways, yet he acknowledges God's justice in Israel's punishment and he owns their responsibility for it through their wickedness and disobedience (speaking in the first person plural 'we'). He openly repents of their national sins, affirms God's rightful actions of discipline, and his ability to restore the nation. At stake in Daniel's mind is not only the wellbeing of Israel, but the reputation of God (his name). Note verses 18-19. God's name and his reputation are also at stake in our land. We, as Christians, could learn from Daniel how to repent of our national sins and appeal to God's mercy and love for renewal for the sake of his name.

**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, 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.