

Friday, August 4: Read [Psalm 89](#), [John 15](#)

Psalm 89 is chock full of references to the various attributes of God and examples of them in Israel's history. The Psalm ends up asking God to again come to the Psalmist's rescue.

John 15 contains the simple secret of fruitfulness in the Christian life -- abiding in Christ. The analogy of the vine and branches carries forward to us today. To the degree that we remain close to Christ, we can expect to see fruit (Christlike character, good deeds, Christian influence). The result Jesus promises is joy and answered prayers.

Notes:

Pray for Our Missionaries

Juan & Adriana Palacios (Angola, Africa), **David & Miriam Trott** (Cochabamba, Bolivia), **Mario Bloise** (Argentina), **Nate & MaryBeth Brace** (Kentucky), **Dan & DeAnn Gerard** (San Antonio, TX), **Robert Newkirk** (Jesus Film), **Craig & Shelly Shafer** (Sentani, Indonesia), **Mike & Fran VanBruggen** (S. Africa), **Sue Sanders** (Detroit, MI), **Matt Kooi** (Tijuana), **Daniel Jezonski** (Wycliffe), **Danielle Tucker** (France), **Andrew & Sara Williams** (New Tribes).

Specific Concerns:

Pray this weekend:

- Review the week (Thank God for answered prayer)
- Note any ongoing concerns to pray for next week.
- Praise God that He is working in your life. You are growing in your faith.



Spiritual Disciplines **Reading Assignments**

- *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.*

Weekly Readings

Monday, July 31: Read [Psalms 81-82](#), [John 11](#)

Asaph challenges Israel to look back and remember how God rescued them in the past as a way of encouraging their faith in present distress and difficulties. Both Psalms call the nation to return to God and look to him for national deliverance.

The resurrection of Lazarus in John 11 records one of the outstanding miracles of Jesus' earthly ministry. Lazarus' untimely death is answered by Christ's simple call back to the world of the living. His resurrection foreshadows ours as well on the day when the dead will be called back to life ([John 5:25](#)).

Notes:

Pray for:

1. *My relationship with God.*
2. *My life roles*
3. *My personal needs/weak areas*
4. *Goals and objectives*

Tuesday, August 1: Read [*Psalms 83-84, John 12*](#)

Psalm 84 is a song of ascent sung by pilgrims going up to Jerusalem to worship. The sons of Korah, probably a temple choir in David's time, have 11 songs included in the Psalms.

John 12 launches Jesus into Holy Week as he moves from Bethany on to Jerusalem. There Jesus prepares his disciples for his upcoming passion. As predicted by Isaiah, the general public of Israel will reject Jesus' messianic mission and ultimately miss the significance of his suffering and death. It would be re-explained to them, though, in Acts 2 at Pentecost.

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday August 2: Read [*Psalms 85-86, John 13*](#)

Psalm 85:6 is a classic revival verse asking God to restore the nation so that they can again find joy in God. Both Psalms reflect that sentiment with David's psalm (86) modelling how someone could pray to God for personal renewal. Why not walk through the Psalm verse by verse and pray for the revival of your own faith? Name the "enemies" you face and ask God for victory in your own life experience.

Notes:

**Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church
(Consider fasting one, two, or all meals this day.)**

- a. Pastors: 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.
- b. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- c. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers.
- d. Discipleship: ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries here at BGCC.
- e. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ.
- f. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in 2017 and beyond.

Thursday, August 3: Read [*Psalms 87-88, John 14*](#).

Psalm 88 is one of the few Psalms that ends on a desperate note. The author's life is in danger of death and he earnestly pleads with God for protection and deliverance with no clue of how it ends. Personally, I like to re-read verses 1-2 because that's the point of hope - who God is and what he alone can do.

John records what's known as the upper room discourse in chapters 13-17. These chapters contain some of Jesus' most intimate instructions to his disciples. Read these chapters carefully. Take special note of his teaching on the coming of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit's new role in the life of the believer. Their secret is ours today as well. We cannot live the Christian life apart from the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Notes:

Pray for "My World"

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Begin to take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help.
- 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.
- Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America.