

Friday, August 11: Read [*Psalms 98-99, John 21*](#)

Notice the references to joy in Psalm 98. It seems like God wants us to enjoy our worship of him. Our worship services ought to be joyous occasions with shouting, energetic singing and loud music. How can we better accommodate this Psalm in our weekly meetings?

Jesus said “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God”. Is that what is occurring here in John 21? Is Peter “looking back” when Christ appears on the beach? Notice, Jesus is reiterating Peter’s calling to feed sheep out of love for Christ. In spite of his actions -- recently denying Christ -- Peter is employed by Jesus to get back in the game. And so are we. So are we!

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, August 7: Read [*Psalms 90-91, John 16*](#)

A prayer of Moses is included in the Psalms as a memorial to the years Israel spent in the desert. Note the contrast between the eternity of God and the transitioness of man’s existence on earth. Moses’ advice to us in verse 12 -- know that your time is limited and wisely live accordingly.

Jesus’ final instructions to his disciples promises peace and joy, even in the face of his coming absence from the disciples. The source of their hope and help would be based on his promises to them and the presence of the Spirit with them.

Notes:

Pray for:

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

Tuesday, August 8: Read [*Psalms 92-93, John 17*](#)

Psalms 92 is an explanation for the use of music in worship. The songs should extol both God's greatness and his goodness. Psalm 93 magnifies one attribute of God -- his majesty -- and models how someone could personally praise him for that virtue.

John 17 is known as "the high priestly prayer" of Jesus. Notice where we fit into this prayer (verses 20-23). Jesus prays for himself, his disciples and all who would eventually believe in him. His prayer is for world evangelism through unity.

Notes:

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday August 9: Read [*Psalms 94-95, John 18-19*](#)

Today's two Psalms model two types of worship. One is a call for justice, for God to judge Israel's enemies. The other is a call to worship, for people to draw near to God in praise and thanksgiving. Along with Psalm 23, Psalm 95 is one of the most often quoted Psalms of the Bible.

John 18 marks the beginning of the passion of our Lord. Notice John's allusion to himself as having been there (in verse 15). He likewise is the one disciple named at the foot of the cross (19:26) and present at the empty tomb Sunday morning (20:3-8). John indeed was "the disciple whom Jesus loved" and he proved it by his consistent close association with Jesus. Can you say the same for yourself today?

**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. Pray for the transition to the Erwins' sabbatical this fall.
- 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. Pray for the ministry teams that serve the church in various capacities.
- 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 10: Read [*Psalms 96-97, John 20*](#).

Both Psalm 96 and 97 are powerful admonitions to worship God alone as Lord. Read carefully the variety of reasons given why God is worthy of our worship. You might want to pause as you read through these Psalms and acknowledge each of the writers' points and affirm your praise to God for the same reasons.

John records the resurrection of Jesus, numerating a variety of witnesses who saw him risen from the dead. These testimonies add to the evidence for his resurrection that first Easter morning. Note John's explanation for writing his gospel in 20:30-31. We, too, believe thanks to John's testimony.

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.