

**Friday**, Aug. 18: Read [Psalms 108-109, Luke 5](#)

Psalm 108 is a love song to God. David rejoices the return of God to help him make this Promise Land his home. What gladness there is in the heart of one who knows God loves him. However, Psalm 109 speaks of difficult time because he yokes himself to God. He holds to fasting because of the oppression he experiences. He does not turn back in devotion to God. He affirms that God “stands at the right hand of the needy, to save their lives from those who would condemn them.”

Luke records Jesus calling the disciples to follow him. He said to Simon, “*Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.*” Jesus demonstrates His authority over creation and the spiritual world. In doing so He assures Peter of His promise. However, this “*friend of sinner,*” as Jesus is called, has much to teach Peter and the others in regards to being a leader. Peter and the others only need to have read the Psalms to realize following Jesus will not always be sunshine and roses. They will, however, become fishers of men.

*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.



- *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**, Aug. 14: Read [Psalm 100-101, Luke 1](#)

Psalm 100 lifts our spirits and brings a song to our hearts. Psalm 101 causes us to step back and ask “where is the love?” God is both righteous and his loves endures forever. Thanks be to God that he has [reconciled](#) us in Christ Jesus ([Romans 5:10](#)).

Luke the physician is careful to record, as any good doctor, the exact details of all he has been told. We would be wise to do the same and to look into the bible to confirm all we have been taught. Let’s look careful in the writings of Luke and see how his findings are affirmed by other writers in the bible.

### **Pray for:**

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

**Tuesday**, Aug. 15: Read [Psalms 102-103, Luke 2](#)

The Psalmist writes “Let this be written for a future generation.” It is good to know that at times we may feel as he did but God remains unchanged. God’s loving kindness is everlasting and his promises to generations. “The children of your servants will live in your presence; their descendants will be established before you.”

Luke continues to declare that Jesus’ life was from the beginning divine. He simply wasn’t just a “good man” on whom the Spirit of God rested. He had divine origins.

**Pray for family and friends by name.**

**Wednesday** Aug. 16: Read [Psalms 104-105, Luke 3](#)

Psalms 104: When the Psalmist looks at creation and recognizes that God has brought all of this after judgment of the flood so we, according to John 5:24 can look with awe and know that sin has been judged on our behalf and say as the Psalmist does “Praise the Lord, my soul.”

In Luke 3, Jesus’ genealogy is well recorded. It was not obvious so many did not believe He was the messiah. God cautions us to look closely and not rush to judgment. There is so much more He has to teach us if we will spend time with Him in reading His word. He welcomes the difficult questions.

**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**, Aug. 17: Read [Psalms 106-107, Luke 4.](#)

Today’s readings for Psalms echo one another that *His love endures forever*. In Psalm 107 it speaks of sailors who go on the mighty seas and witness first hand the power of the water. They would be fools to believe they are a match for this great power. It must be God’s grace that brings them safely to harbor. In like manner, we would be simple to believe that His Love does not endure forever toward us. Sometimes we need to leave the small lives we live to see the vastness of His creation and how majestic He is.

Luke 4 revisits the issue of temptation that was first introduced in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3). However, this time the setting is a bit different. With Christ, the environment was anything but a beautiful garden, and yet Christ did not sin. We can learn a lot from Christ’s handling of temptation. Knowing God’s word is essential if temptation is to be defeated.

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.