

Friday, September 1: Read [Psalms 132-134](#), [Luke 15](#)

Luke chapter 15 could be coined “the lost and found chapter” of Luke. Three parables illustrate the importance of spiritually lost people to God. The prodigal son story adds the twist of the older brother, representative of the religious leaders of Jesus’ day and their indifference to the plight of lost people without God.

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. 28: Read [Psalm 120-122](#), [Luke 11](#)

These three psalms are all known as songs of ascent. Jerusalem was built on a hill. Pilgrims going to religious feasts at the Temple would typically “go up” to Jerusalem. Note the mood of these psalms tends to be festive and upbeat.

Jesus’ instructions on prayer in Luke 11 strike at the core of our own view of God today and his willingness to answer us when we call. Prayer is never an interruption for God, and so, it is imperative that we pray about everything ([Philippians 4:6](#)).

Pray for:

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

Tuesday, Aug. 29: Read [*Psalms 123-125, Luke 12*](#)

Psalms 123 reflects the basic relationship of a servant to his master. God as Lord is over every aspect of our lives and we rightfully look to him for all our needs, including protection from enemies as the following two psalms declare.

One of the primary themes of Luke 12 is also God's providence. The disciple of Christ is to cast off greed and self reliance and look to God for daily provisions, like the ravens and lilies. Our priority (verse 31) ought to be seeking his kingdom first above all. God as our master will care for our needs.

Notes:

Pray for family and friends by name.

Wednesday Aug. 30: Read [*Psalms 126-128, Luke 13*](#)

Luke 13 records Jesus' ongoing ministry of both instruction in God's truths and the demonstration of his truth in power to perform miracles. Luke's plot thickens as the Pharisees ramp up their opposition to Christ and his messianic activities. The chapter finishes with him grieving over hardhearted Jerusalem and the coming desolation because of their rejection of Messiah.

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. 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.
- 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. 31: Read [*Psalms 129-131, Luke 14.*](#)

Psalms 130 records the words of a repentant person, looking to God for forgiveness, hope and redemption. It ends on a triumphant call to worship -- in the Lord is un-failing love and full redemption! Psalms 131 is the second shortest Psalm in scripture (behind Psalms 117's two verses). The Psalms humbly look to God for resolution and hope. The image is that of a weaned child, comfortably resting on its mother's breast.

In Luke 14, Jesus switches the focus of his ministry from public to private and from miraculous works to teaching. The bulk of the following three chapters are parables of the kingdom.

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.