

Week of  
January 03  
2021



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.

*We are presently working on a Bible reading plan for the next two years -- we'd like to read through the Old Testament this year and the New Testament next year. We hope to launch the "Thru the Old" plan in a couple weeks. Until then, let's take two weeks and read the new Testament book of Hebrews, a book which sheds quite a bit of light on the Jewish Old Testament law from a Christian perspective.*

## Monday, January 4: Read *Hebrews 1*

The theme of Hebrews is *The Superiority of Christ*. The author argues that Jesus is superior in every respect to Old Testament Judaism. Chapter one reveals Jesus as superior to the angels. Take time to cross reference the half a dozen Old Testament quotes from Deuteronomy, Isaiah and Psalms quoted in this opening chapter of Hebrews. According to verse 3, Jesus is much more than an angel. He is the divine Son of God, the creator, redeemer and sustainer of all. Angels have their place in the created hierarchy of things. But Jesus is above all created things (*Colossians 1:15-18; 2:8-10, 16-17*).

### **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, January 5: Read [\*Hebrews 2\*](#)

Chapter two continues with the theme that Jesus is superior to the angels. However, it also argues that he was not only divine, but human. Note verses 14-18. Read this paragraph carefully and notice just how human Jesus actually was. He suffered and died as a man and now acts as our human high priest -- the representative human being and a prototype of a whole new generation of people.

### **Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.**

## Wednesday, January 6: Read [\*Hebrews 3\*](#)

Hebrews 3 now compares Jesus and his ministry to Moses, the chief apostle of the Jews. Jesus is superior to Moses in the same sense that a builder of a house is worthy of greater honor than the house itself. Next, the author compares his (and our) generation to Moses' generation, who were judged a transition from Egypt to the promised land and ended up dying in the wilderness. The culprit? A hard, unbelieving heart -- the same thing that keeps people from turning to God today.

### **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. Take some time to 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.
6. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our future plans 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, January 7: Read [Hebrews 4](#)

Chapter four brings up the topic of rest, symbolized in the Sabbath day and finally realized in salvation, which is further symbolized by the promised land. Notice the role of the word of God and believing in verses 2 and 12. We today enter God's rest when we believe the gospel and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Salvation is our sabbath rest and heaven is our promised land. Jesus now is our high priest who intermediates on our behalf to bring us mercy and grace from God.

### **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, especially as churches reunite after the quarantine.
- 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 Promise, 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. Pray for God's guidance and protection through this election cycle and into 2021.

**Friday,** January 8: Read [Hebrews 5-6](#)

Chapter 5 continues (from [4:14](#)) this theme of Jesus as our modern day high priest. Unlike prior priests, Jesus was sinless. The sacrifice he would offer was himself, and that only once. No other sacrifice for sin was necessary. The author goes on to expound on righteousness or the need for right living in chapter 6. Verses 4-6 frequently trouble those who read the warning because it seems to say that if you fall away, you cannot be brought back to God. Verse 9, however, clarifies that someone in this situation was never truly saved. There's a similar warning in [10:26-31](#). Next week we will survey the second half of Hebrews.

**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), ***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)