

Week of
January 10
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 11: Read [Hebrews 7](#)

In chapter 7, the author introduces Melchizedek as a model of Christ from the Old Testament. Melchizedek was both a priest and king in Abraham's time ([Genesis 14:17-20](#)). The fact is, though, that there is no lineage on him recorded in the Old Testament. Five hundred years after Abraham, God would establish the priestly line of Levi in Israel. Melchizedek was not a Jewish king, nor was he from the priestly line of Levi. Likewise, Jesus is a high priest not from the Levitical heritage. And so he is equated with Melchizedek who was greater than Abraham. He is an eternal high priest who is able to save completely all who come to God through him (verse 25).

Monday: Pray for yourself:

My relationship with God

My life roles and responsibilities

My personal needs/weak areas

My goals and objectives for 2021

Tuesday, January 12: Read [Hebrews 8](#)

Jesus' ministry is superior to the Jewish high priests. His covenant is superior to the Old Covenant ([7:22](#)). He is superior in every way. He is the fulfillment of [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) and the ultimate mediator between God and men ([Hebrews 9:15](#), [1 Timothy 2:5](#)). The Old Covenant relied on men externally obeying God. The New Covenant relies on God internally justifying men through Christ's obedience.

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday, January 13: Read [Hebrews 9](#)

Jesus Christ is superior to Judaism because he did not sacrifice animals for human sins, he offered his own blood on mankind's behalf. And, he entered the heavenly sanctuary, not a copy of it here on earth. For this reason, we have the complete payment for all our sins, once for all. In the past, the day of atonement occurred annually, year after year. Under the New Covenant, our day of atonement took place at Calvary over two thousand years ago -- one sacrifice sufficient for the forgiveness of the sins of the world, for all generations, ours included!

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.

1. 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 14: Read Hebrews 10

Jesus' suffering and death has made a "new and living way" for us to come to God. We have both forgiveness of sins and a clear conscience before God, the full assurance of our faith as God's people. The warning follows, however, that there is no other means of salvation (verses 26-31). We dare not ignore what God has freely offered us in Christ. That was the temptation of the Galatians -- having become Christians, they were being tempted to return to Judaism and reject God's manifest grace in Jesus Christ alone (Galatians 3:1-3). We are called to persevere in our faith, even in the face of persecution.

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 15: Read [*Hebrews 11*](#)

Hebrews 11 has been called “*The Hall of Faith*” chapter of the Bible. Here the author lays out the basic tenet that faith trusts God in all circumstances. Next he gives example after example of past believers who faithfully trusted in God in their own life challenges. We would do well to consider each of their examples and imitate their faith. (Note [*Hebrews 6:12, 13:7*](#)) It is now incumbent upon us in our generation to likewise live by faith and so honor and please the Lord. In what way is God calling you to trust him lately? Like these Old Testament saints, are you stepping out in faith or are you dealing with doubt? Be encouraged, God can turn your weaknesses into strengths if you’ll fully trust him today ([*Hebrews 11:34*](#)).

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)