

Week of
January 17
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 reading plan in a couple weeks. Until then, let's finish Hebrews and read parts of Romans -- two books which shed light on the Jewish Old Testament law from a Christian perspective.

Monday, January 18: Read *Hebrews 12*

The last two chapters of Hebrews begin a series of practical applications to chapters 1-11. Therefore (12:1) means, as a result of; because of. In this case, because Jesus fulfills all the Old Testament requisites for our right standing with God, now we can live out our faith daily with power and confidence. Go slow through chapter 12. Note the directives given there -- to run, to fix our eyes, to endure, to submit, etc. Follow through as God speaks to you personally.

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 19: Read [Hebrews 13](#)

The final chapter of Hebrews further instructs us in practical Christian living in the areas of relationships, marriage, obedience, grace, prayer and peace. Again, all of these come from the foundation of a right relationship with God made possible through Jesus. He is superior to all in every way.

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday, January 20: Read [Romans 4](#)

We are continuing to build up for our read through of the Old Testament (starting February 1). For the rest of this week, we will cite several chapters from Romans that also act as commentaries on Judaism. The book of Romans, like Hebrews, sheds light on several Old Testament fulfillments in Christianity. Chapters two through four deal with Justification by Faith. Paul demonstrates that even in the Old Testament, God required faith in order to justify someone. The example of Abraham demonstrates this principle showing that his faith in God led secondarily to obedience. [James 2:20-24](#) suggests that obedience is the proof of faith, also using Abraham as an example of this. Faith ultimately looks to God and his promises and acts accordingly. Are you living by faith on a daily basis?

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 21: Read [Romans 9-10](#)

We skip over to Romans 9-10 today to see more commentary on Old Testament Israel. The Apostle Paul shows here how Israel missed the mark by rejecting Jesus as Messiah. They had all the spiritual advantages of God's revelation through the Jewish scriptures, but failed to see Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises to them. Even so, God sovereignly worked through a remnant to open the way for salvation to the Gentile world. Now salvation is available to everyone who believes, regardless of their heritage or nationality ([Romans 1:16; 10:4, 13; 11:32](#))

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 though this election cycle and into 2021.

Friday, January 22: Read [*Romans 11*](#)

In Romans chapter 11, Paul answers the question -- what will become of the nation of Israel? His answer is simply that they have experienced a hardening in part for a time but that a spiritual revival awaits them in the future. At that time, the whole nation will turn to Christ, likely at his second coming. Until then, we are in what theologians refer to as “the age of the Gentiles”. The gospel began in Israel but has gone out into all the world according to God’s plan. We are beneficiaries of Israel’s hardening at this time, but God will eventually fulfill his plan and purposes for the nation as he has prophesied repeatedly in the Old Testament scriptures (see [*Isaiah 65:18-25*](#)).

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)