



Spiritual Disciplines Guide

Chart the Course

Old Testament

Week of February 27, 2022

Last week I suggested that we could outline the book of Acts from chapter 1:8 -- Jerusalem to Judea/Samaria to the ends of the earth. You can also look at Acts in terms of personalities. Peter is the prime character of the first half of the book. Paul is the featured personality from chapter 13 on. Secondary persons include John, Stephen and Phillip in the first half and Paul's travelling companions, Barnabas, Silas and Timothy in the second half of Acts.

We start the week with the persecution of the Jerusalem Christians due to the martyrdom of Stephen, which leads to the gospel going out from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria. Paul (formerly Saul) is converted in chapter 10, followed by Peter's outreach to Gentiles and his defense of their conversion in chapters 10-11, followed by the martyrdom of the Apostle James and Peter's miraculous escape from execution in chapter 12.

Chapter 13 launches Paul and company going out on their missionary journeys. Use your maps in the back of the Bible to follow their travels this week and next. Finally, don't miss the significance of Acts 15, known as "the Jerusalem Council". Like with Peter in Acts 11, Paul gives account to the apostles in Jerusalem of how he is ministering to the Gentiles. The question arises do Gentiles need to become Jews in order to become Christians? The overwhelming response of the Jerusalem leadership is NO! God is extending his reach from Judea out to all the nations of the world. We are part of his outreach!

Monday, February 28: Read [*Acts 8-9*](#)

Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Monday: Pray for yourself:

My relationship with God

My life roles and responsibilities

My personal needs/weak areas

My goals and objectives for this winter session.

Tuesday, March 1: Read [Acts 10-12](#)

*Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday, March 2: Read [Acts 13-14](#)

*Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

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.

1. 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 through the Kingdom Assignment “*Dare to Care*”.
2. 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, March 3: Read [Acts 15-16](#)

*Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today’s reading:

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 pandemic.
- Pray for the community parachurch ministries serving our county, including Beginnings Care for Life Center, Branch County Right to Life, Joppa Recovery/Celebrate Recovery, Coach Eby Center, Family Promise, Forgotten Man Ministries, Freedom Recovery Center, 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 for our nation in the coming weeks and months.

Friday, March 4: Read [Acts 17-18](#); Sermon Text: [Luke 15:1-32](#)

*Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Friday: Pray for Our Missionaries

David & Miriam Trott (Tucuman, Argentina), *Dan and DeAnn Gerard* (San Antonio, TX), *Craig and Shelly Schafer* (Asia-Pacific Region), *Sue Saunders* (Bosnia), *Matt and Becky Kooi* (Tijuana), *Daniel Jezowski* (Wycliffe), *Brad and Christa Babjack* (University of West Virginia), *Alvaro and Raquel Garriga* (Central Asia), *Pastor Roberto* (Las Palmas Church, Tijuana)