

Week of
April 5
2020



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.*

Monday, April 6: Read [*Isaiah 53, Psalm 22*](#)

This being Holy Week, let's pause and retrace Jesus' steps during his last week from Jerusalem to the upper room, to the garden, to the cross, and then from the garden tomb. We'll lean heavily on Matthew's gospel account.

Begin today with two classic prophecies that foretell Jesus' innocent suffering. Both give impressive details about Jesus' vicarious suffering, death, burial and return to life. Amazing that the knowledgeable Jews of his day did not recognize the significance of that event until Jesus later explained all to them.

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, April 7: Read [Matthew 21-23](#)

Holy Week officially begins with Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem, traditionally known as the Triumphant Procession of Christ. He was coming into the heart of the Jewish nation but would be officially rejected as their awaited Messiah over the next several days. Note the parables he tells pointing to the significance of the moment but also hinting to their rejection of him and eventual judgment as a nation. It was the Pharisees and religious leaders who would seal their doom as they prepare for his conviction and crucifixion.

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday April 8: Read [Matthew 24 and 25](#)

These two chapters are known as the Olivet Discourse. Jesus, alone with his disciples on the Mount of Olives overlooking the city, spells out the signs for the destruction of Jerusalem and his second coming. Notice that these are two separate, though related, events. His parables bear weight for us as well today. We still look for his second coming and are likewise called by God to be faithful until the end occurs.

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. 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, especially through the upcoming Kingdom Projects.
6. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future. Pray for God's clear leading in our 2020 plan 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, April 9: Read [Matthew 26 and 27](#)

The Passover strategically foretells the mercies of God by providing a perfect lamb as the sacrificial substitute for our sins. Based in [Exodus 12](#), Jesus declares that it is now his body and his blood which will detour the angel of death from judging us. Because of the blood of Christ, he will pass over us! From the upper room, Jesus and his disciples go to the garden, where he agonizes in prayer. From there, he goes on alone to a series of trials, condemnation to crucifixion, the death march to Golgotha and his execution. Joseph of Arimathea and the women encase the body and bury it before sundown Friday. A guard is posted by the Romans to ward off possible grave robbers...and resurrection scene is set.

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 this Sunday?
- 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.
- 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 Hope Outreach, 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.

Friday, April 10: Read [*Matthew 28, Luke 24, John 20*](#)

Using these three gospel accounts, try to piece together the various details of all that occurred on that first Easter morning. Each of the authors share both similar and unique details in their stories. Note especially the variety of witnesses who first hand encountered Jesus alive and well. We have great reason to believe their testimonies -- Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. And because he lives, we too shall live ([*Ephesians 1:18-21*](#))!

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), ***Andrew & Sara Williams*** (Ethnos360), ***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)

