

Week of  
April 12  
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 13: Read [Psalm 107](#)

This coming Sunday we will consider King David of old as an example of how to face life-altering and even life-threatening crisis. To gain his perspective on life's challenges, let's go back to the book of Psalms and work through another set for the week.

Psalm 107 admittedly is one of my favorite Psalms. The author spells out four different crisis scenarios. In each situation, he suggests the same remedy -- cry out to the Lord! Size up your situation and wholeheartedly turn to God with it and seek his divine help and intervention. In each case, he records both God's answer and the universal response -- Thanksgiving and praise to God. Could your and my situation be similar to their's? If so, our remedy is also the same. Present your present needs and fears to God, trust in his response and be ready to give him thanks and praise.

### 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 14: Read [\*Psalms 116\*](#)

This Psalm gives another good model of how to turn to the Lord in the face of danger. The Psalmist reaches the point of death, calls out to God and is mercifully rescued. Be at rest, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to you. Notice the author's automatic desire to serve God with his life (v. 12-14). You and I are staring sickness, disease and even death in the face. If we survive this encounter, what ought our response to God be? How should you and I live differently? What kind of life of gratitude to God should we live? And what difference will this "brush with death" make in our daily lifestyle, our relationships and our spiritual life? I hope my sacrificial service to God increases. I hope to love and honor him more. I hope the same for you.

**Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.**

## Wednesday April 15: Read [\*Psalm 118\*](#)

Psalm 118 is jam packed with spiritual directives for you and I at this time. Read it slowly. Think about the revelation of God's nature (what God is like) as well as a worthy response to him (praise, thanksgiving, service). Again, measure your mindset and attitude in difficulty with what you see in this Psalm. Ask God to address wrong attitudes and actions in your life at present. Trust him to change you within, even through difficult outward experiences. Be quick to acknowledge his goodness and love, and be ready to share your perspective with someone you know who is down and needy. God just may come to their rescue through you!

**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.

1. 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 16: Read [\*Psalms 130 and 131\*](#)

Both passages in today's reading are "Psalms of Ascent". These are songs that were sung by Hebrew Pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem for one of their annual religious festivals. These are typically shorter psalms rehearsing who God is and what he has done (and will do) for his people. (Feel free to review others from [\*Psalms 120--134\*](#)). The simple theme of these two is waiting in hope for God to act. Maybe that's where God has you today -- in a sort of holding pattern, waiting for something to happen. Check yourself to see where your hope ultimately lies -- in God or in something (or someone) else. Ask him to teach you trust and patience during the Corona Crisis. You will be a better person for it ([\*Romans 5:1-5\*](#)).

## 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.
- 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 17: Read [\*Psalms 138 and 126\*](#)

Notice the confidence of King David in Psalm 138. His confidence flows from his personal experience with God in his past. He is bold and stout-hearted, though he is lowly and not proud. He knows that God has a purpose for his own life and that he is in a sense “immortal” until God has accomplished his plan for him. We can know God in a similar way and feel that same hope and confidence, even in the face of adversity, danger and uncertainty. God will not abandon the work of his hands -- that’s you and me! He preserves our lives until his purpose for us is complete.

Going back to Psalm 126, notice the change of heart and life for God’s delivered people. There is a harvest of righteousness ahead for all who stay faithful to God through the tests of life. Joy, like no one can imagine, waits ahead for us. Take stock in that and stay the course. It will be worth it! ([\*Galatians 6:9-10\*](#))

***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)

