

Week of
April 26
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 27: Read [Matthew 6:19-34, Philippians 4:4-19](#)

In our daily disciplines this week, we'll leave the book of Psalms and head over to Isaiah, where we will camp out for several days. But first, let's start the week by reviewing two pertinent texts from two recent sermons. Matthew 6:19-34 offers an antidote for anxiety. Jesus recommends that we get outdoors and consider (study, observe) the birds and the lilies. We've got a lot to learn from creation. One of the lessons Jesus emphasizes in this passage is God's providence. Don't worry, he will meet the needs of those who trust him.

Philippians 4 enjoins us to present our needs to God in prayer and then to get our mindset above our circumstances. Again, God will provide for us in his way and in his time if we'll trust him.

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 28: Read [Isaiah 40 - 41](#)

The general theme of Isaiah is God is our salvation. The context of these several passages in the mid-forties has to do with God delivering Israel. Read carefully today's passages. Glean insight into our common human predicament (lostness) and God's capacities to save, strengthen and sustain us. Many of God's promises to Israel can transfer to us in our present time. He's the same God. He has the same capabilities to save. It's up to us to call upon him, to entrust ourselves to him and to obey his instructions.

I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold your right hand and says to you; do not fear; I will help you. (Isaiah 41:13)

Tuesday: Pray for Family and Friends by Name.

Wednesday April 29: Read [Isaiah 42-43](#)

Isaiah 42 begins with an introduction of the coming Messiah. Then it shifts to a reminder of just who God is and all that God has done and even will do. Much of the passage is written in the first person singular, "I" to accent how God wants to personally be involved with his people. The one big obstacle though is idolatry (verse 17).

Isaiah 43 continues in the same vein. Note how God simply distinguishes himself from all other gods. There is no equal to him anywhere. For that reason, we too look to him for mercy, justice and deliverance.

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 30: Read [Isaiah 44-45](#)

Isaiah 44 previews the coming of the Holy Spirit as witnessed by the disciples in [Acts 2](#). Jesus also refers to himself in verse 6 from [Revelation 1:17 and 22:13](#). He is the God of Isaiah and the rock that makes men stumble (verse 8).

Chapter 45 names a far distant king who would send Israel out of captivity and back to their own land. Note again how God over and over refers to himself "I" and his own hands accomplishing this: There is no one else, no other God besides him! Again, Paul references [Isaiah 45:23](#), when he extols Jesus' lordship in [Philippians 2:10-11](#). Pretty powerful stuff! I hope you gain hope and confidence from it. Isaiah reminds us of just how great God is and all that he is able to do for those who entrust themselves to him.

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, May 1: Read [Isaiah 55](#)

Isaiah 55 has been a passage of comfort to millions over the ages. God's invitation to you and I each day is to come to him with our needs and concerns, and find refuge and renewal. This passage sounds like Jesus' own words to his disciples in [Matthew 11:28-30](#); to the Samaritan women in [John 4:10-14](#) and to the crowd in [John 7:37-39](#). We would do well to daily draw near to God and find "living water" to sustain our lives. The invitation for you still stands -- "come".

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)

