



Bible Reading 2021

Chart the Course

Old Testament

Week of August 22, 2021

In the book of Ecclesiastes, King Solomon sets out to discover meaning and fulfillment by experimenting with a variety of activities and pursuits. In his existential experiment, he pours himself into the pursuit of pleasure, knowledge, riches, power and accomplishment. His conclusion at the end of each experiment is that it is meaningless. Everything he attempts turns out to disappoint him. He finds no ultimate meaning or fulfillment in the diverse projects he undertakes. The book is kind of a “downer” in that it seems pretty dire and pessimistic. What is the point of Ecclesiastes? Perhaps the point is what our world is discovering still today. There is no final fulfillment in secular humanism. Without God, life is ultimately meaningless. He fairly well concludes this in chapter twelve, where he finishes the book stating....*here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (12:13)*. We would do well to take Solomon’s advice and to learn vicariously from his personal experience that there is no meaning or fulfillment in life apart from God.

Monday, August 23: Read [*Psalms 71-72, Ecclesiastes 1-3*](#)

*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 2021

Tuesday, August 24: Read [*Psalms 73-74, Ecclesiastes 4-6*](#)

*Chapter highlights:

*A key passage for me:

*One point of application from today's reading:

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday, August 25: Read [*Psalms 75-76, Ecclesiastes 7-8*](#)

*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, August 26: Read [*Psalms 77-78, Ecclesiastes 9-10*](#)

*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 quarantine.
- 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, August 27: Read [*Psalms 79-80, Ecclesiastes 11-12*](#)

*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), ***Salomon and Megan Guzman*** (Tijuana), ***Alvaro and Raquel Garriga*** (Central Asia), ***Brendan and Ashley Camp*** (Nicaragua)