

# Week of September 27 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.*

*We have come to the second part of our study of the book of Acts. Part I -- The Church Established, featuring the Apostle Peter. Part II -- The Church Extended, featuring the Apostle Paul. Luke, who wrote Acts, includes three different missionary journeys of Paul, covering a combined period of some 20 years. Each mission trip sets the stage for many of Paul's New Testament letters. This week, we will focus on Philippians.*

## Monday, September 28: Read [Acts 1-2](#)

We will split this week by finishing up the book of Acts for three days and then taking Thursday and Friday to introduce our new fall series.

Acts 1-2 really sets the stage for the whole book. Jesus departs and prepares his disciples for the new era of the church. [Acts 1:8](#) is worth memorizing if you haven't yet. The power of the Spirit will impel forth the Apostles as witness of Christ preaching the gospel in Jerusalem (chapters 1-7) Judea and Samaria (chapters 8-9) and beyond (chapter 10 and following). The first third of the book features Peter and the church being established. Chapters 13 and beyond features Paul and the church being extended through missions.

## **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, Sept. 29: Read [Acts 9-10, 15](#)

Perhaps the primary barrier to the early church was bridging the gap between Jews and Gentiles. Peter's vision and calling to Caesarea to preach to the Centurian Cornelius and his family really opens the way for the early church to extend itself to the Gentiles. Later in Acts 15, The disciples clarify what would be the standard expectations of Gentiles who join churches with Christian Jews already there. Christianity would not be a reformed Judaism but a whole new religion! Paul's letter to the Galatians is an example of how they would then need to keep this clear in the years ahead.

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

## Wednesday, Sept. 30: Read [Acts 22-23](#)

The Apostle Paul's final stand at Jerusalem represents his argument for why Jesus is in fact the promised Jewish Messiah. Notice he is not denying his Judaism or decrying the Old Testament. He is pointing them to the fulfillment of the Jewish scriptures found in Jesus Christ. You can read his later defenses of himself and his teaching in [Acts 24:10-21](#) and [Acts 26:1-32](#). While [Acts 28](#) finishes with Paul as a Roman prisoner, tradition tells us that he was released for a couple more years of service and then imprisoned under the Emperor Nero and executed in 68 A.D.

**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.
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, October 1: Read [\*Isaiah 59\*](#)

Starting Sunday, we will develop a new sermon series for the fall called 2020 Hot Potatoes. The goal is to take a few months to survey some principle secular issues facing Christians in modern society. We will look at these issues from a Biblical perspective and seek to discern what God's view of them is, and how we ought to respond to them. Before we do this, however, we will need to come to agreement about information, ideas, truth and falsehood. We need to know for sure that God's word is completely authoritative on all life issues and doctrines. What God says goes! When God speaks, we must listen, heed and obey. His word trumps all others. To disregard his instructions or disobey them is always precarious. It will lead to destruction, a course that many believe our nation is on at present. Note Isaiah's tone to Israel in chapter 59. The nation has turned away from God and is following lies and corrupt leaders (see also [\*Jeremiah 9:1-6; 14:14\*](#)). Their only hope (like ours) is to enter into a new covenant with God, empowered by his Spirit and directed by his word (verse 21)

### **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, Celebrate Recovery, Coach Eby Youth and Family Center, Damascus Road Ministry, Family Promise, 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, October 2: Read [Psalm 1](#)

Again we need to refocus on the authority and truth in God's word, the Bible. His truth is the sure foundation that will sustain us in all life's storms (Matthew 7:24). It is the perfect law that gives freedom ([James 1:22-25](#)); a lamp to our feet and a light to lead us through dark times ([Psalm 119:105](#)). Our assignment, like the blessed man in Psalm 1, is to delight in it (devour it, savor it, enjoy it) and meditate on it consistently. The resultant effect, according to this passage, will be the vigilance of the Lord, prosperity and his blessings.

**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), ***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)