

Week of October 25 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.*

Our spiritual disciplines the next six weeks will take us through the book of Proverbs. Solomon's proverbs highlight godly wisdom and many ways it is expressed in daily living, habits, decisions and relationships. In his book, he contrasts such things as wisdom and foolishness, duty and laziness, good and evil, honesty and deceit, humility and pride. Each day you will survey a chapter, highlight the themes Solomon presents, and then record a key verse that stands out in the text for you personally. Be ready to share what you are learning each week in church or in your small group.

Monday, October 26: Read [*Proverbs 16*](#)

Along with [*Proverbs 15:22 and 19:21*](#), chapter 16 features the theme of planning and God's will. We are to plan and then entrust our plans to God for direction and his blessing. Note the principles outlined in verses 1-4, 9, 17-18 and 33. What are you planning to do this week? Be sure you check in your ideas with God as you go.

My key verse:

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, October 27: Read [*Proverbs 17*](#)

Notice how many of the Proverbs deal with right relationships. There are many perks and positive fruits that come from good relationships, and plenty of fallout from not treating others right. How are your relationships at present? Are you “right” with family and friends, neighbors or colleagues at work? Ask God to reveal any wrong heart attitudes towards others (17:3). Be ready to follow his prompting if necessary. You’ll be glad you did. So will others!

My key verse:

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday, October 28: Read [*Proverbs 18*](#)

Along with various topics related to wisdom and righteousness, notice again the emphasis on words in this chapter (v. 2,4,6,7,8,13, 20, 21). The fruit of our mouths has great potential for harm or for good. Our words give evidence to the condition of our hearts and expose us as either foolish or wise. Choose your words carefully (v. 21), they will both mark you and eventually make you!

My key verse:

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.
2. 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 29: Read [Proverbs 19](#)

It's interesting to note the contrasts of wealth and poverty in Proverbs. Sometimes riches are seen as a blessing from God, or the result of disciplined living. And sometimes riches are portrayed as a false security. Likewise, poverty can be the result of riotous living or foolishness, and sometimes being poor guards a person from false pretenses ([17:1,22](#)). One's relationship to God and others outweighs wealth and social status every time. God wants you to discover true wealth in relationships.

My key verse:

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. Pray for God's guidance and protection in the upcoming elections.

Friday, October 30: Read [*Proverbs 20*](#)

Verse 5 is a great truth related to helping people through difficulties. We have to go deep within, at times, to discern our true motivations. And this may require “a man of understanding” to help. An objective listener (a counselor, a friend) can be a great resource when we are in crisis. We need someone to help us sort out not only what’s happening outwardly, but what we are thinking and feeling and even believing deep down within. Drawing out those things definitely opens the way for progress, healing and oftentimes change outwardly. Again, Proverbs give us basic general truths, like verse 5, that we can broadly apply to our life circumstances and experiences.

My key verse:

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)