

Week of November 22 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 will switch from Proverbs to Ecclesiastes for the next couple weeks relating some of our topics on current issues to Solomon's ancient quest for meaning. As king of the land, Solomon pretty much has all that he would want and need. Even still, he is not contented. Read through Ecclesiastes and join in the universal human quest for significance. See if you come to the same conclusions about life's meaning and purpose that Solomon did.

Monday, November 23: Read [Ecclesiastes 1](#)

Solomon opens his book with a conclusion that is reinforced chapter by chapter. The proverbial search for meaning will be empty and fruitless apart from God. Verses 1-11 typify life as a series of empty cycles -- a "merry-go-round of meaninglessness".

Verses 12-13 lay out Solomon's "existential experiment" covered in the twelve chapters of his book. Even so, through each experiment, he ends up feeling like a man "chasing after the wind". The more he learns, the more he grieves. Don't despair in reading Ecclesiastes. It makes an excellent point for anyone pursuing secular humanism in today's world.

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, November 24: Read [*Ecclesiastes 2*](#)

In chapter two, Solomon sets out to find meaning first in pleasure (hedonism) and then in accomplishments (“great projects”). Both are deadend streets. He finishes the chapter lamenting that human wisdom did not deliver personal fulfillment either. His conclusion is the man who finds personal satisfaction in his daily life routines is truly blessed of God. According to verse 26, it is God who ultimately blesses and fulfills a person, often times in spite of their own efforts and accomplishments.

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday, November 25: Read [*Ecclesiastes 3*](#)

Timing is everything in life. God is always on time. He is never late or early. Read carefully Solomon’s famous exposé on times and seasons. What season are you currently in at this time of your life? What divine activity has God intended for you in this season? Do you know, and are you fulfilling it? He makes everything beautiful in its time? He can do that for you if you’ll learn to look to him for his timing and trust him for his results.

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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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, November 26: Read [Ecclesiastes 4](#)

Chapter four is reminiscent of the book of Proverbs, reflecting on topics of labor, oppression, envy, teamwork and youthfulness. Like Proverbs, perhaps you can gather some good advice from chapter four for your life at present. Are you content with your present station in life (verse 6)? If not, why? And what do you believe will give your life ultimate meaning and joy (verse 8)? Remember, the wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways. ([Proverbs 14:8](#))

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 though this election cycle and up to the end of 2020.

Friday, November 27: Read [Ecclesiastes 5-6](#)

Chapter five covers various themes including integrity in speech, the value of hard work and the deceptiveness of wealth. Verses 18-20 again summarize the true blessing of finding satisfaction in life under God. It is illusive otherwise.

Chapter six sounds like the sad admission of a depressed man (Solomon?) who has it all but has no peace! Again, the secret ingredient to ultimate success and significance in life is none other than God. That's the whole point of Ecclesiastes. See [chapter 12:13](#).

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)