

Week of December 06 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.*

Edging up to Christmas, we will take a couple of weeks to review some basic tenets of our faith, especially as they relate to the coming of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Our goal is simply to reinforce the importance of Christmas -- the world premier event that brought light into the darkness, hope to a disparate world and eternal salvation to all who believe. We'll begin by revisiting the simple and basic premise that the Bible is the word of God. Next week we will look at the Bible's primary protagonist -- Jesus, the Son of God. And then, we'll take Christmas week to survey the birth of Jesus, the Savior from God.

Monday, December 7: Read [Genesis 1](#)

The means through which God brings everything into existence is his word. He speaks and things come to be! He gives the order, and things happen as he wills. Then God said....."Let there be....." And there was..... Read [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#). Note the four things Paul says God's word can do for you. Are you committed to read and apply God's inspired word to your life daily? The decision to actively study and obey scripture is one of the most important and formative steps of the Christian life. ([1 Thessalonians 2:13](#))

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, December 8: Read [*Isaiah 40*](#)

God's word is not only the agent of creating, it is also the means through which he sustains the world today. note ([*Hebrews 1:1-3, 4:12, Matthew 24:35*](#)). God's word is also the means through which we come to faith ([*Romans 10:17, 1 Peter 1:23, James 1:18*](#)). As we read the Bible, God reveals himself to us. We learn who God is, what he has done, what he is doing now, and how we can trust his word/promises for our present and future circumstances (i.e. [*Isaiah 40:31*](#)). As God speaks to you in his word, underline passages, write down your thoughts and impressions, stop and pray to God about what you are reading. Single out certain verses that you could commit to memory to further strengthen your faith ([*Psalms 119:9,11*](#)). God has a message to give to you, and he wrote it in a book!

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday, December 9: Read [*Psalms 119:1-56*](#)

Psalms 119 is an acrostic poem written with the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet divided into 22 sections, one for each letter. The eight verses in each section all begin with the alphabetical letter heading that section (Alpha, Beth, Gimel, etc.) The longest chapter in the Bible, Psalms 119, is the exact center of the 66 books of scripture Bible and emphasizes the excellencies of God's word, the Bible. Read slowly, read pensively and discern the true reverence the author had for God's word.

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 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, December 10: Read [Psalm 119:57-120](#)

As you read through Psalm 119, notice the different designations the psalmist gives to the Bible -- law, statutes, precepts, word. The author loves God's word and finds great solace, strength and enlightenment from reading it. To him, it makes the difference between night and day, light and darkness ([Psalm 119:105](#)). How can you and I cultivate a similar love and reverence for scripture? Do you sense the supernatural significance of the truths of the Bible for your life?

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

Friday, December 11: Read [Psalm 119:121-176](#)

Did you mark any passages in the first 120 verses of Psalm 119? Go back and review sections one and two. Finish the Psalm again noting the author's attitude towards God's word and its various purposes and advantages to someone's life. Ask God to strengthen your love and commitment to his eternal truth, the Bible. Ask him to make your faith like the centurion who simply took Jesus at his word and acted on what he had heard. ([Matthew 8:5-13](#)) God wants to develop "great faith" in our lives today as well! The more you listen to God, the more your faith will develop and grow. As someone once told me, "The Bible can keep you from sin, and sin can keep you from the Bible".

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)