

Week of December 13 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.*

In our spiritual disciplines last week, we surveyed the basic tenet that the Bible is the word of God. This week we will pick up with the truth that Jesus is the divine Son of God. He is the central protagonist of the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. Rather than go to the gospels, let's go to prior revelation from Old Testament prophecies of redemption and the reign of the coming Savior. Next week we will survey scripture related to Jesus' birth.

You have the word of the prophets made more certain and you will do well to pay attention to it. ([2 Peter 1:19](#))

Monday, December 14: Read [Psalm 2, 45](#)

Let's start the week with two "Royal Psalms", predicting the rule of Messiah as King. Note the imagery of a wedding in Psalm 45. We are the bride of Christ, and sons and daughters of the King. And so the nations will praise him forever and ever as Jesus rules from his everlasting throne (v. 6,17)

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 15: Read [*Psalm 72, 110*](#)

Psalm 72 is a psalm of King Solomon projecting the reign of Messiah into his own reign as he prays for himself. Note some of the direct Messianic references that pertain to Jesus -- He will rule from sea to sea, all nations will be blessed through him, all nations will serve him, etc.

Psalm 110 is the most quoted Old Testament chapter in the New Testament,. It begins with the ascension of Christ, declares his diety, his eternal priesthood and his final position as judge over the nations. Jesus alone will finally be arrayed in hold majesty! (verse 3)

Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.

Wednesday, December 16: Read [*Isaiah 40:1-11, 61:1-3*](#)

Note these two prophecies of Isaiah. The first identifying John the Baptist, who would prepare the way for Jesus' earthly ministry (see also [*Malachi 3:1-4, 4:5-6*](#)). Jesus quotes Isaiah 61:1-3 when he inaugurates his ministry in his hometown synogogue (see [*Luke 4:16-21*](#)). [*Isaiah 11:1-5; 42:6-7*](#) refer to Messiah's ministry with similar phrases. Jews of Jesus' day would have recognized those words as prophetic, thus his rejection by his hometown people at Nazareth ([*Luke 4:28-30*](#)). We, today, are still in "the year of the Lord's favor" -- a time of grace, forgiveness and reconciliation thanks to what Jesus accomplished for us on the cross.

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 17: Read [Psalm 22, Isaiah 53](#)

These are two of the best known prophecies related to Messiah's redemptive work for humanity at Calvary. Jesus quotes Psalm 22:1 as one of his first words on the cross. Any onlooking Jews would have recognized that reference as Messianic.

Phillip ([Acts 8:26-35](#)) encounters the Ethiopian eunuch near Gaza who is puzzled over his reading in Isaiah 53:7-8. He shares with the man the passages' fulfillment in Jesus. The eunuch confesses faith and is baptized. Both Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 are powerful prophecies pointing ahead to Jesus' sacrificial death on behalf of the world.

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, December 18: Read [Zechariah 12-14](#)

Zechariah writes during the restoration of Israel back to the land from their exile in Babylon. No Old Testament prophecy says more than he does in just a few chapters. Sort out some of his future predictions for both Israel and the nations recorded in chapters 12, 13 and 14. The Lord, who is coming physically to the land of Israel, is none other than the glorified Jesus Christ on his triumphant second coming ([Revelation 19:11-16](#))

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)