

FAITH BIBLE READING

Apr 30-May 6, 2018

At Faith Baptist Fellowship, we **Love God's Word and Prayer** (Ephesians 6:17-18)! Take the 'sword of the Spirit' (God's Word) and persevere in prayer! In this year, ask God each day to speak directly to you from the Scripture portions you read.

Our plan for 2018 will be taken from the Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan. Monday-Saturday we will focus on one main devotional passage; the additional readings will keep you on track to finish the entire Bible in one year. On Sunday, we will have a passage from the upcoming Sunday sermon along with questions for Faith Group discussion.

We suggest having a notebook and pen for answering questions and recording your thoughts/insights. Bring this notebook with you to Faith Group for discussions and prayer times. Select a quiet place and consistent time to read and pray.

Abbreviations: **TAI** – Think About It | **PP** – Prayer Points

MONDAY, APRIL 30

Read Ruth 3

TAI: What a beautiful gospel story unfolds in this chapter. There are details here that we cannot relate to, from another time and culture. Nevertheless the symbolism is quite obvious: there is a need; Ruth is guided by her mother-in-law to request the "covering" of the kinsman-redeemer, Boaz; he responds with grace and wisdom and a kind provision for Ruth and Naomi. We have a need; Jesus came to meet our need and provide our redemption; by faith we call upon him to save us; he is willing and able to deliver us. Hallelujah! What a Savior! Thanks be to God.

PP: What a blessing to reflect on this account from Ruth. Pray a prayer of thanks to God: first, for his word, the Bible, and this book of Ruth; second for our own Redeemer, Jesus Christ, the Son of God; finally for the grace and kindness of God in mercifully sending his Son and planning such a marvelous salvation for all who call upon him to save them. Pray also for our witness to others who need to hear the good news of the great Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Additional readings: Mark 9:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:29-58; Psalm 93

TUESDAY, MAY 1

Read Ruth 4

TAI: What a wise man Boaz proves to be! He negotiates the terms of agreement for his redemption of Ruth (making her his bride, in accordance with their cultural custom and God's law) in a brilliant and insightful way. This is the grace and wisdom of God: for in this way, not only does Ruth find a husband and provider, but also Ruth and Boaz become an important link in the family chain leading to King David and then to Jesus Christ himself! (see Matthew 1:5) Can you feel the delight of Naomi at God's goodness toward her?

PP: This book is a delightful example of God's gracious *special arrangements*. Ruth got a husband and provider; **you got a Savior!** Pray a prayer of praise to our Sovereign and All-Wise God. What attributes of God have you seen displayed in the book of Ruth? Praise God for them all. Praise him especially for your Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Pray for the youth and children's ministries, Director Angela Myers and all her team members, as they communicate God's love and *special arrangements* to the kids.

Additional readings: Mark 9:14-32; 1 Corinthians 16; Psalm 94

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

TAI: Given Paul's earnest desire that the readers experience grace and peace (v. 2) and the key word in vv. 3-4, what challenge are these readers likely facing in their Christian lives? How do vv. 5-7 confirm that idea? Why is Paul certain that they will experience God's comfort in their suffering? What assurance does that give you? How serious was the suffering Paul endured? How can we help believers who are suffering for Christ's sake today?

PP: Taking v. 11 to heart, take time to pray for those who suffer persecution today. Many believers experience fierce opposition from family, community, and extremist groups, and that suffering seems to be on the rise. Tell the God of all comfort if you are suffering, and thank him for his divine comfort today.

Additional Readings: Mark 9:33-50; Psalm 95; 1 Samuel 1-2

THURSDAY, MAY 3

Read 2 Corinthians 1:12-24

TAI: Paul reveals that he values simplicity, godly sincerity, and grace rather than earthly wisdom. How could those values apply to your life right now? What is the nature of the boasting he is talking about in v. 14? Ponder the remarkable statement in v. 20 about God's promises. What is the context of Paul saying this? What does it mean for you that all of God's promises are YES in Jesus Christ? In addition to these promises in Christ, what else has God given to his people for their joy?

PP: Talk to the Father right now about valuing simplicity, godly sincerity, and grace in your life. What worldly pressures compete against these? Talk that over with God. Tell him that you boast only of Jesus Christ. Thank him for every promise of Scripture that is guaranteed through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Ask him to help you apply those promises in daily living. Thank him also for the gift of the Holy Spirit as we face both suffering and opportunity.

Pray for our nation on this **National Day of Prayer**. Pastor Dana and Christa are in Washington DC for it.

Additional Readings: Mark 10:1-16; Psalm 96; 1 Samuel 3-5

FRIDAY, MAY 4

Read 2 Corinthians 2

TAI: The Apostle had previously confronted the Corinthian church via letter (1 Corinthians but also likely a second letter we do not have) regarding sin and the need for discipline in the church. What motivated Paul to do this? What is the good news implied by vv. 5-10? Discipline with the goal of restoration can result in the delight of forgiveness, to the glory of God! What do you suppose Paul means by Satan's designs in v. 11? Ponder v. 14 a while, and consider memorizing it. How does it help you today?

PP: Ask God to give you the motive of LOVE in all your actions toward others. Pray for restoration by the grace of God where there is sin and brokenness. Thank God for the victory that is ours through Jesus Christ, and pray for the aroma of Christ (the gospel) to spread to every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Additional Readings: Mark 10:17-34; Psalm 97; 1 Samuel 6-8

SATURDAY, MAY 5

Read 2 Corinthians 3

TAI: The chapter opens with a beautiful thought! What do you think Paul means when he says "you yourselves are our letter of recommendation" written on the heart? Ponder awhile *your life* as a letter written by the Spirit of God on human hearts. Where does our sufficiency for ministry come from? What do you think is the "glory that surpasses it" in v. 10, given the context? What removes the "veil" that is over the human heart? Reflect on v. 18, and what it means to behold the Lord with unveiled face, by the Spirit. Oh what glory that will be! Hallelujah, and thanks be to God.

PP: Pray through this chapter, turning its remarkable ideas into personal prayer to the Father in heaven. Ask God to fill you with his Spirit, and write on human hearts through your gospel-centered, Christ-led life. Thank God for his sufficiency in making you a minister of the new covenant through Jesus Christ. Tell God how much you look forward to the day when you will behold his glory and see Jesus face to face!

Additional Readings: Mark 10:35-52; Psalm 98; 1 Samuel 9-10

SUNDAY, MAY 6

Read Hebrews 8

TAI & PP: Pray for Pastor Jayson as he preaches on this vital chapter of Hebrews for our ***So Much Better*** series.

Better covenant, better promises: ponder the wonder of the good news of Jesus Christ and his better, ***so much better***, fulfillment of the priesthood as our Great High Priest.

Thank God for his new covenant blessings for us in Christ.

Rejoice in the truth that God has in Christ written on our hearts!

Delight in the truth that God has made us his own!

What mercy that God remembers our sins no more!

Hallelujah, what a Savior!