

FAITH BIBLE READING

Nov 19-25, 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, NOVEMBER 19

Read 1 John 4:1-6

TAI: In this paragraph, John reveals his concern about “the forces of spiritual deception. John furnishes a litmus test to detect them” (ESV SB). What is that litmus test? Therefore, how would one go about testing the spirits? If the “spirit of the antichrist” refuses to acknowledge that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, who are some present-day “spirits” who fit that criterion? The truth of v. 4 is valuable to memorize! Do so now. Do you struggle with “listening” to the world and the spirit of error? Reflect on this struggle.

PP: Ask God to give you discerning ears to distinguish truth from error. How absolutely essential that is! Tell God that you desire his help to shun worldly inputs: those that deny the Lordship and incarnation of Jesus. Tell God that you welcome the truth of his word the Bible. Express your desire to read the word, see the truth on the sacred page, receive it as the word of God, and live for the glory of Christ. “Father, please help me to say NO! to worldly inputs and thinking, but YES! to the truth of the Scriptures. I rejoice that Christ in me by his Spirit is greater than the evil one. Thank you, God!”

Additional readings: John 11:45-57; Job 15:17-35; Ezekiel 42-44

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Read 1 John 4:7-21

TAI: Who is the true source of genuine love? Have you been “born of God” and do you “know God”? How has God clearly made his love known? Explain propitiation. What moves us to love one another? Note the presence of all three members of the Trinity in vv. 13-14. Which member helps us abide in Christ? Do you find it challenging to abide in love? How does “perfect love cast out fear”? Ponder the truth that to love God is to love others as well.

PP: Praise God for sending his Son to be our Savior and also sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in you as a believer. Thank him for the new birth in Christ, and that his wrath bypasses you because of Jesus! Ask God to give you a great heart of love for him and for other people. If there is someone in your life who you find very hard to love, tell God about that. Fearful? Tell God, and ask him to fill you with love.

Additional readings: John 12:1-11; Job 16; Ezekiel 45-47

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Read 1 John 5:1-12

TAI: Loving God and loving people go together! That is one of the primary emphases of John’s letter. John is also drawing distinctions between genuine, God-given love and worldly love. The evidence of God-given love is obedience to God’s commands. What do you think John means by the concept of overcoming the world? What is the key to that overcoming? Ponder the three: the Spirit and the water and the blood. What does John mean by linking these three? For Pastor Dana, vv. 11-12 have been very valuable to memorize. They help you “preach the gospel to yourself.” Preach to yourself today!

PP: Tell God how much you love him! Ask him again (as you did yesterday) to help you love others around you. Express your desire to keep his commandments today, and to walk in love, so as to overcome the world by faith in Christ. **Thank God** for salvation bought with the precious blood of the living Christ and given by a deep work of the Holy Spirit. Pray the gospel using vv. 11-12!

Additional Readings: John 12:12-19; Job 17; Ezekiel 48

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22 *THANKSGIVING DAY!*

Read Psalm 100

TAI & PP: Go ahead! Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Sing, shout, hum your favorite song of praise; whistle even! Express your gladness to God for his grace and goodness toward you. What a blessing it is to know God and to be one of his own—that is truly the heart of Thanksgiving! Jot down here several reasons you have to be thankful today:

Thank you, God, for your good grace to me and my family today! Great is your faithfulness, O God our Father! Hallelujah.

Additional Readings: Thanksgiving Psalms: Psalm 95; Psalm 107

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Read 1 John 5:13-21

TAI: What was John's goal in writing this letter? What does God love to do for his precious children who trust in him? Do you think this promise—*whatever we ask*—has any limits? We are exhorted to pray for those who are living in sin, for their deliverance. What do you think John means by a sin that leads to death? What is the evidence that we have truly been born of God? What promise gives us great hope of deliverance from harm by the devil? "Keep yourself from idols"—is this a struggle for you?

PP: It is truly amazing that we can know God! What a profound truth. We know God through Jesus Christ his Son. Pray a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for this. Bring any requests you have to your Father in heaven. Pray boldly, yet submissively. Your Father knows what is best for you! Do you know someone living in sin? Earnestly ask the Father to deliver that friend or loved one. Confess to God any idolatry that is a struggle in your life. Ask him to deliver you. Thank God for his protection from harm by Satan.

Additional Readings: John 12:20-36; Job 18; Daniel 1-2

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Read 2 John 1-13

TAI: Who is the elect lady and her children? (A good study Bible can help you with this one.) What is the truth that abides in us? John picks up again in this letter the great theme of love. **Love one another!** What does love look like? How can we detect when someone is a false teacher and deceiver? John makes clear that those who truly know God and are born of God will persevere in their faith and not fall away (“abide”). What should be our response to false teachers and deceivers who come to us? What would make John’s joy complete?

PP: Pray through this brief letter, line-by-line, making it personal. Continue, as we did in reading and praying through I John, to pray about your love for God and for others. Ask God for protection from lies and deceit coming from false teachers. Ask God to help you abide, that is, to persevere in your faith, trusting God and walking with him throughout your life.

Pray for those who will preach and teach God’s word tomorrow at our two campuses of Faith. Part of a Faith U class? Pray for your teacher. Pray for those who will teach our children and youth.

Additional Readings: John 12:37-50; Job 19; Daniel 3-4

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Read Mark 5:1-20

TAI & PP: What were the clear and unmistakable signs that this man had demonic spirits troubling him? Mark continues to reveal that the demonic spirits know who Jesus is. What happened when Jesus delivered the man from the spirits? What was the response of the community? Do you tell others what the Lord has done for you?

Pray for the pastors preaching on this text today. Pray that we would truly worship in Spirit and truth today as God’s own people. Pray for our warm welcome to guests who join us. Continue to be thankful to God for all he has done for you!