

FAITH BIBLE READING

Oct 29-Nov 4, 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, OCTOBER 29

Read Lamentations 4

TAI: From the high point of these laments, the faithfulness and mercy of God in Chapter 3, we now return to the pain and misery of the siege of Jerusalem in lines of poetry. How is this punishment worse than that of Sodom (v. 6)? Note the sad contrast of vv. 7-8, and how desperate and ugly the situation has become (v. 10). There is neither delivery (v. 17) nor escape (vv. 18-19). There is only the faintest of hope in the distance (v. 22).

PP: What a contrast to the message of "health and wealth" promised by certain false teachers. Life on earth pairs joy and pain, laughter and sorrow, hope and misery. What pain are you currently enduring? Tell it to God! Call upon him. Cry out to him. Be honest. And as you pray about current woes, keep in mind our great hope in Jesus Christ, which is not faint and in the distance, but a near reality: Jesus is coming soon! God is preparing a place for us. Hallelujah!

Pray for our Westside outreach event this Wednesday evening, **Candyfest**, for children and their parents. Pray that vital connections would be made, and growing awareness of our presence there in the neighborhood. (no activities at Faith South)

Additional readings: John 7:14-24; 1 Peter 5:1-7; Song of Sol. 8:1-7

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Read Lamentations 5

TAI: The last in the series of sorrowful laments, this one a prayer. Dr John Sailhamer writes, “The author asks the Lord to look on what has happened to his people. He acknowledges that it was decades of sin that caused this pain and suffering (v.7). He closes his prayer by asserting God’s eternity (v.19) and by asking God to restore and renew his chastised people (vv.20-22).” From even the greatest pains and sorrows of life, renewal is possible by God’s grace.

PP: Ask God to grant renewal and restoration to you in the hardship and sorrow of life. Thank him for his grace and mercy toward you! Praise him as the Eternal God, mighty to save and able to deliver. Thank him for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Pray for others in your sphere of life who are suffering and in pain. Ask God for healing, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual. Pray for our nation, which is in the grip of sin and rebellion toward God. “Revive us again!”

Additional readings: John 7:25-36; 1 Peter 5:8-14; Song of Sol. 8:8-14

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Read 2 Peter 1:1-11

TAI: Recall the comments from last Sunday’s Mark text on what an apostle was. Remember also that Peter was Mark’s primary source for his gospel. On what basis is our faith on “equal standing” with an apostle like Peter? What role do God’s “precious and very great promises” have in our Christian life? How do the qualities in the “chain” of vv. 5-7 relate to one another? How do we “confirm our calling and election” according to Peter? What is our great hope?

PP: This is a passage where there is something meaty and powerful to pray about in every single verse. Some are thanksgiving—“thank you God that through Christ I have a faith of equal standing with the apostles!”—while others are supplication, such as the “chain” of verses 5-7. So pray line by line, thought by thought, through all 11 verses in the reading. This is the beauty of Scripture praying, letting God’s word set the agenda for your prayers. To God be the glory.

Pray for tonight’s **Candyfest** outreach on the west side.

Additional Readings: John 7:37-44; Job 1; Ezekiel 1-3

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Read 2 Peter 1:12-21

TAI: Remind yourself of the “qualities” Peter is speaking of from yesterday’s reading (vv.5-7). What is Peter doing to help us never forget them? What assures Peter that he is not spinning out “cleverly devised myths” when he proclaims the truth to his readers? What occasion is Peter referring to when he heard the voice from heaven? Note that v.21 is one basis for our doctrine of the divine inspiration of Scripture. Another is II Timothy 3:16. *Worth memorizing!*

PP: Thank God for inspiring Peter to write down this epistle. Thank God for communicating to us his character, will, and purpose through the Scriptures, and that we can be sure the Bible is not a book of “cleverly devised myths” but rather the word of God given to us. Ask God to help you carefully read and understand the Bible. Pray for all who preach and teach the Bible in our Faith ministry.

Additional Readings: John 7:45-53; Job 2; Ezekiel 4-8

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Read 2 Peter 2:1-10a

TAI: What are some characteristics of false prophets and their teachings? According to v. 9, God knows how to rescue the godly and also hold the unrighteous for punishment. How does Peter illustrate this in vv. 4-8? (Note each example.) Take to heart the warnings of v. 10a against indulging in the lust of defiling passions and also despising authority. Is either a problem for you? How big a problem do you think false teaching and false prophecy are today?

PP: Ask God to protect you, your family, and our church from false prophets and teachers. Ask God to help us discern what is true and love sound doctrine. Intercede for friends or family members who are under the grip of false teachers. Ask God also to graciously keep you from lustful indulgence. Do you struggle with authority? Confess that to God and ask for wisdom to discern genuine, God-given authority from false.

Pray for our nation. Intercede for all in positions of authority.

Additional Readings: John 8:1-11; Job 3; Ezekiel 9-12

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Read 2 Peter 2:10b-16

TAI: First review yesterday's reading. This paragraph continues the theme of God dealing with the unrighteous, especially false teachers. Some believe Peter is borrowing here from the Genesis account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18-19, worthy of your review). God forbid that we would ever be casual about blasphemy. What further insights does this paragraph give us about false teachers? Notice that *sexual sin* and *greed* are predominant. How does Peter use Balaam as an illustration (see Numbers 22)?

PP: Since *sexual sin* and *greed* are mentioned in relationship to false teachers, ask God to keep you from the allure of sexual sin and the love of money. Instead, ask God to renew your love of the truth, love of Christ, and love of the gospel, for these are the best way to avoid such sins. Tell God that you never want to blaspheme his wonderful name. Sing a song of praise to God and thank him for his work of grace in your life. Pray for the preaching of God's word tomorrow.

Additional Readings: John 8:12-20; Job 4; Ezekiel 13-15

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Read Mark 3:20-35

TAI & PP: Notice how the mother and brothers of Jesus are mentioned at the beginning and end of this passage. Why were his family members wondering about his mind? How did Jesus respond to the false accusation of the scribes? Ponder the meaning of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. (Hint: it has to do with unbelief.)

According to Jesus, who are his mother and brothers?

Pray for the pastors as they preach on this passage today. It has some very challenging concepts to relate, such as blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

Pray also about the very important election coming up this week in South Dakota and across the nation. God help us! God guide us.