

FAITH BIBLE READING

Jan 21-27, 2019

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. Select a quiet place and consistent time to read and pray.

Our plan for 2019 will be similar to previous years **with one exception**. 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. **In addition**, we will include a **"One Another"** passage also for Faith Group discussion and personal application in caring for one another in the body of Faith.

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.

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

Read Matthew 7:15-29

TAI: A warning in vivid words: Jesus continues to use practical, every-day imagery to communicate important truth. What images does he use here? What is he communicating through those word pictures? To whom will Jesus say, "I never knew you"? Who will enter the kingdom of heaven? What is the point Jesus is making about the house building on rock and sand? (Can you sing the children's song?) What was astonishing to the crowds about Jesus' teaching?

PP: Over and over again the NT warns us about false teachers! Ask God to give you great discernment about your sources of truth—whether it be clever Facebook sayings or TV preachers or articles in books or magazines or blogs. Ask God to help you bear much fruit. Ask God to give Faith a fruitful year of ministry. Ask God for the fullness of the Holy Spirit to walk in the obedience of faith, doing his will. "Father, help me build on the Rock that is Jesus Christ! Keep me from building on the sand of the world."

Additional readings: Acts 10:24-48; Psalm 18:1-24; Genesis 39-40

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

Read Matthew 8:1-13

TAI: Jesus heals once again! Why would Jesus tell the leper who was healed to tell no one? Who were the centurions? When the centurion illustrates his authority, Jesus marvels at his faith. Why is this an expression of faith? What point is the centurion making about Jesus? Jesus makes a stunning and heartbreaking point with vv. 11-12—being Jewish doesn't save you from hell! (v. 12 makes clear that hell is a reality, not a myth.) What did Jesus do for this centurion?

PP: Praise Jesus for his awesome power and authority to save and heal! Pray for a great movement of the Holy Spirit resulting in new believers among both the Jews and the Gentile peoples. Praise God that his plan includes some from every tribe and tongue! Pray for Sarah in Asia and for Scott and Andi also preparing to serve Christ among the unreached people groups (and all of our global partners). Pray for lost people you know and love to be rescued from hell.

Additional readings: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 18:25-50; Genesis 41

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

Read Matthew 8:14-22

TAI: What do we learn about Peter? Matthew continues to impress on us the authority and power of Jesus to heal immediately (emphasized by the healed woman getting up and serving). What prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled? Why does Jesus refer to himself as the Son of Man? Why does Jesus point out that he is homeless (again vividly illustrated!)? Does v. 22 indicate that Jesus is cold and insensitive? What point does Jesus seem to be making?

PP: Throughout this brief section Matthew is underlining the point that Jesus is the promised Messiah, a main lesson of his gospel. Praise God for sending his Son to be the Promised One. Praise God for the revelation of Jesus' power, authority, and love for us! Thank God for his healing work in your life, from blindness to sight, from death to life. Tell God that your chief desire is to follow Christ as his disciple no matter what the cost, for he is FIRST in your affections.

Additional Readings: Acts 11:19-30; Psalm 19; Genesis 42-43

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

Read Matthew 8:23-34

TAI: In November we covered this in our *Uniquely Jesus* series on Mark. As you read it again, what stands out to you today? Of what are you afraid? Do you have 'little faith' or much faith in Christ? What sort of man is Jesus? Compare this section (vv. 28-34) with Mark 5:1-20. What differences do you notice in the two accounts? How do you reconcile those differences? Is one of the gospel writers in error? *[Pastor Dana's take: just as when news coverage on an event varies, Mark's emphasis is more on the man possessed by Legion and his desire to go with Jesus after he was healed, while Matthew mentions two men healed. That difference in emphasis does not imply an error.]*

PP: Thank God for the incredible gift of his word, the Bible! What wonders it reveals! Pray a prayer of praise and adoration to God for Jesus, Lord over the deeps and over the demonic powers. Ask God to increase your faith. Tell him your fears. Lay them at the foot of his throne and ask him to set you free from them. Delight in the truth that 'greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.'

Additional Readings: Acts 12; Psalm 20; Genesis 44-45

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Read Matthew 9:1-13

TAI: It is worthwhile to ponder this: which is easier, to forgive sins or to heal a man paralyzed? What is Jesus' point in asking the question? Of course, the man is delighted that Jesus does BOTH for him! For every believer it is the same, in Christ our sins are forgiven and we have the promise of eternity with no more illness or pain or death. Hallelujah! What does it mean to be afraid and glorify God (v. 8)? Who needs a physician? What is the truth for both the tax collectors and the Pharisees?

PP: Praise God that in Christ you have forgiveness of sins and the promise of the new heavens and new earth...and sometimes earthly healing as well! Thank God for healing your sin sick soul. *Pray for our Celebration Banquet tomorrow night at the South Campus. Come!*

Additional Readings: Acts 13:1-25; Psalm 21; Genesis 46-47

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Read Matthew 9:14-26

TAI: According to Jesus, why didn't his disciples fast at that time? When would they fast? *Insight question to ponder: what is the relationship between this fasting discussion and the wineskins and patches?* The next paragraph is familiar because we recently covered it in our Mark series *Uniquely Jesus*. Why do you think Matthew placed these two incidents right after making his point about the wineskins? How do the ruler and also the woman with the bleeding issue both exhibit faith in this text?

PP: Rejoice in prayer that we are children of God through the new covenant—the cross, the empty tomb, the ascension of Christ to the right hand of the Father and living in the fulness of the Holy Spirit! These *new wineskins* are the joy of our gospel-centered life in Christ. Thank God. “Father, we long for the return of Christ, with fasting and prayer and worship and faith, believing that soon we will see the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Maranatha—come, Lord Jesus! I believe, help my unbelief. Help me trust completely in you.”

Additional Readings: Acts 13:26-52; Psalm 22:1-11; Genesis 48

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

Read Mark 6:30-56

TAI & PP: Mark continues to reveal to his readers the wonder of who Jesus Christ is. He is the Messiah, Savior, and Son of God with power to multiply the bread and fish, walk on water, and heal the sick and oppressed. Nothing is too difficult for our Lord! If he can do these things, he can certainly meet our need for forgiveness and new life and peace. *Rejoice in grand Celebration Banquet we enjoyed last night at Faith South, and all the good things God has done for us.*

Care Point: Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love... verse 9 says “let love be genuine.” What does genuine love for one another in the body of Christ look like? How have you experienced it? Give an example of a time when the love of your brothers and sisters in Christ made a big difference to you.