

FAITH BIBLE READING

Jan 28 – Feb 3, 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 28

Read Matthew 9:27-38

TAI: Matthew again puts Jesus' power on display. What did the blind men ask of Jesus? What is the significance of the term "Son of David?" What question did Jesus ask the blind men? How did the crowd respond when Jesus healed the demon oppressed man? Note the difference in responses between blind men and the crowd.

PP: The blind men recognized Jesus as the promised deliverer from the line of king David. The crowd did not recognize Jesus and attributed his powers to the only other existing source they knew about. Who were the blind ones? Pray that God would give you more of a heart of compassion for those who are harassed and helpless. Pray for more laborers to be sent out into harvest. Pray for a missionary that God brings to mind as you read this.

Additional readings: Acts 14; Psalm 22:12-31; Genesis 49

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

Read Matthew 10:1-20

TAI: What kind of authority did Jesus give to his disciples? To what audience were they to go? What specific ministry instructions did Jesus give his disciples? To what did Jesus compare his disciples? How were they to respond when persecuted?

PP: Jesus calls his disciples to him as an initial answer to the prayer in the previous chapter to send laborers into the harvest. Jesus also gives them the authority to carry out his mission. Note that the disciples were to minister to both the spiritual and physical needs of the lost. Pray for our Care Team and Greg Friesner as they minister to both physical and spiritual needs. Ask God to make you aware of needs that you can minister to where you work or live.

Additional readings: Acts 15:1-21; Psalm 23; Genesis 50

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

Read Matthew 10:21-42

TAI: What kind of warnings of danger or hardship did Jesus give his disciples? What kinds of things did Jesus say to bolster His disciples' courage? How do you react when someone makes jokes about your faith or when people treat you harshly? Why did Jesus tell his disciples it was important for them to take a stand for him (vs 32-33)? What surprising comments did Jesus make about why he came? (vs 34-36)

PP: While Jesus predicts hardships ahead, he also offers words of hope. If we acknowledge Jesus before people here on earth, Jesus will acknowledge us before his heavenly Father! "The **word** mentioned in vs 34-37 is a metaphor of the separation that occurs between those who believe in Christ and those who do not. The central point is that love of God and his kingdom must take precedence over every other human relationship. (ESVSB). Are you currently facing a difficult situation or hardship as a result of taking a stand for Jesus? Pray as God leads.

Additional Readings: Acts 15:22-41; Psalm 24; Exodus 1-3

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

Read Matthew 11:1-19

TAI: What question did John the Baptist send to Jesus from prison? What did Jesus say in response? How did Jesus describe John the Baptist? Who was he and what was his mission? To what did Jesus compare 'this generation'? What was John criticized for? What was Jesus accused of?

PP: Jesus was comparing his current generation to a group of children who could not be pleased by anything and were always insisting on their own way. John and Jesus did not conform to their expectations and do what they wanted. Its no different today. The culture wants to squeeze us into its mold but Romans 12:2 says, "***Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...***" What are you letting your mind dwell on? Pray!!

Additional Readings: Acts 16:1-15; Psalm 25; Exodus 4-6

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Read Matthew 11:20-30

TAI: After his praise of John the Baptist in the previous passage, who does Jesus condemn? Why does he denounce the cities where he did most of his mighty works? What sets Tyre and Sidon apart from the rest of the cities mentioned? After pronouncing judgement what does Jesus do? Who did Jesus say would know him? How does Jesus describe walking with him? (vs 30)

PP: Have you heard the message of the gospel and seen God's hand at work but still refuse to believe? Pray a prayer of repentance. Are there ways in which you are treating the mercies and blessings of God as no big deal? Pray a prayer of repentance. Are you struggling under a heavy burden and loosing sleep over it? Pray and cast those cares upon Jesus and he will care for you.

Additional Readings: Acts 16:16-40; Psalm 26; Exodus 7-9

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Read Matthew 12:1-21

TAI: Where were Jesus and his disciples on the Sabbath and what were they doing (vs 1-8)? What did the Pharisees accuse them of? How did Jesus respond? What did Jesus do in the synagogue on the Sabbath? Again, what was the response of the Pharisees? In the passage from Isaiah, how did God identify the messiah and what type of ministry would he have?

PP: Matthew continues to portray Jesus as the King, having authority over the rules that the Pharisees had put in place for the Sabbath. Jesus' value system was different-people over rules and traditions. Can you think of instances where you have valued rules/traditions above people? Ask God to give you eyes to see the needs of people around you. Pray for our CARE and SHARE ministries that minister to those who are often overlooked.

Additional Readings: Acts 17:1-15; Psalm 27; Exodus 10-12

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Read Mark 7:1-23

TAI & PP: Observe how today's passage from Mark highlights the same issues that Matthew recorded in yesterday's bible readings. Note all the rules and traditions that the Pharisees and scribes had put in place. The intent was to try to earn God's approval through works. Note how the prophet Isaiah identifies the real issue. What was the real issue? Please pray for Pastors Dana and Jayson as they preach this passage at the South and West Campuses today.

Care Point: Romans 12:10..."Outdo one another in showing honor." Honor is defined as "respect, reverence, esteem exhibited toward a person or thing". (Word Study Dictionary). What are some practical ways that you can show honor to someone?