

FAITH BIBLE READING

Jan 7-13, 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 7

Read Matthew 3:13-17

TAI: Why would John the Baptist hesitate to baptize Jesus? What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness"? If Jesus, who was without sin, submitted to baptism, how much more ought we to be baptized when we come to faith in Christ! Note: Jesus "went up from the water" indicating he had gone down into the water to be baptized—this was no sprinkling! Note also the love of the Father and the Son, and the presence of all three members of the trinity. If you have been baptized, reflect on that time in your life. If not, why not?

PP: Praise God for the profound truth of the trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit presented here. Thank God for the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, and his willingness to "fulfill all righteousness." As the Great Commission calls us to make disciples of all the *ethne*, the people groups, of the world, and baptize them, pray for the global expansion of the church of Jesus Christ, and for our missionaries we support in global gospel ministry. Ask God to give us a fruitful year with many baptisms at Faith in 2019!

Additional readings: Acts 4:1-22; Psalm 6, Genesis 15-17

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

Read Matthew 4:1-11

TAI: Record the temptation, then the scripture response from Jesus.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What lessons can we learn from this account?

PP: Ask God for wisdom to discern the temptations that come your way (read I Cor 10:13) and a biblical “escape” from them. Ask God also for a growing knowledge of his word (Ps 119:11)—hidden in your heart (memorized)—to help you face temptation. Thank God for his word, the true nourishment we need! Thank God also for the ministry of his angels.

Additional readings: Acts 4:23-37; Psalm 7; Genesis 18-20

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

Read Matthew 4:12-17

TAI: Isaiah 9:1-2 is cited here, which was a key text in our Advent series “The Light: Yesterday, Today, and Forever” last month. How does Matthew utilize that key OT prophecy here? According to the ESV Study Bible, v. 17 “marks a significant turning point in Matthew’s narrative, indicating that the preparations for Jesus’ messianic ministry are complete...Jesus’ message builds on that of John the Baptist.” When is the time to repent? *Answer: all times!*

PP: Rejoice once again (as we did last month) that the OT prophecy concerning the Light was fulfilled by Jesus. Thank God for Matthew’s continuing emphasis on Jesus as the fulfillment of messianic expectation—He is our Savior! Hallelujah! Recall the time when God’s Spirit first led you to repent and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ and be thankful. Pray for our Wednesday evening ministries resuming tonight after the break. *We are so thankful for our faithful Wednesday night meal team! Be sure to thank them for their work!*

Additional Readings: Acts 5:1-16; Psalm 8, Genesis 21-23

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

Read Matthew 4:18-25

TAI: What does it mean to you to be a *fisher of people*? What did it look like for Peter and Andrew, James and John? What does it look like for us today? For example, what are the challenges, and what are the opportunities? (These would be super discussion items for your Faith Group!) What were the characteristics of Jesus earthly ministry at this point, according to v. 23? What was the response to Jesus?

PP: Write down the names of 7 people you'd love to see come to faith in Christ: 1.

- | | |
|----|----|
| 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. |
| 6. | 7. |

*We've often called this list our **Sacred 7**. But today, let's think of it as our fishing list!* Pray by name for the salvation of each one. Ask God to draw them by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Additional Readings: Acts 5:17-42; Psalm 9; Genesis 24

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

Read Matthew 5:1-12

TAI: Where does the word Beatitude come from? Why do we call this section by that term? From the ESVSB: "More than a temporary or circumstantial feeling of happiness, this is a state of well-being in relationship to God that belongs to those who respond to Jesus' ministry." Notice that with each, there is a statement followed by a promise. Of these 9 Beatitudes, which do you find most difficult? Which do you find most reassuring? What does it mean to be poor in spirit? Meek? Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness?

PP: Quite simply, pray through each of the 9 Beatitudes, line by line, statement by statement, promise by promise. Be honest with God about the challenges and the opportunities that each one affords. Rejoice and thank God for every promise and take them to heart as you pray! Pray for the persecuted church around the world.

Additional Readings: Acts 6; Psalm 10; Genesis 25-26

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Read Matthew 5:13-20

TAI: You are the salt of the earth...the light of the world. This is some of the most memorable and profound imagery Jesus used. Ponder each of these statements. How is each unique? What is Jesus saying to you personally today? What is the purpose of letting your light shine? What does it mean for Jesus to *fulfill* the law and prophets? How is righteousness different now under Jesus? The scribes and Pharisees emphasized external adherence to a set of rules; in Christ we are transformed by grace and the Spirit from the inside out! PTL!

PP: Ask God to give you much grace to truly be, in your sphere of influence, *salty salt* and a *bright light*. Reflect on what this means this very day for you, and then pray about the details of your day. Thank God for the gifts of daily grace and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit! Tell God of your desire to walk in the Spirit today.

Additional Readings: Acts 7:1-38; Psalm 11; Genesis 27-28

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

Read Mark 6:1-13

TAI & PP: As you read through the questions Mark records (vv. 2-3) you can almost hear them being asked! What do you think is Mark's point in sharing this episode? Note that healing a few people was not a "mighty work." What made Jesus marvel? Why do you think Jesus told the disciples to *travel light*? What were they able to accomplish?

Pray for the pastors preaching on this passage today. Ask God to give us the blessing of spiritual fruit from this series of messages Uniquely Jesus.

Care Point: John 13:34-45 ...Love one another. Faith Group discussion: What is *new* about the new commandment? What is *old* about it? Since this is one of our **5 Loves** at Faith, how do you think we are doing? How is Faith Group a unique opportunity to truly fulfill this command of Jesus? How could our Faith Group show love to someone in the body this month?