

FAITH BIBLE READING

Feb 11-17, 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, FEBRUARY 11

Read Matthew 14:22-36

TAI: These readings have paralleled our *Uniquely Jesus* series of messages closely. Jot down your personal, brief response to each:
Jesus prayed—

Jesus walked on the water—

They were terrified—

Peter got out of the boat—

"Lord, save me!"—

"Why do you doubt?"—

PP: It is worth pondering that the Lord Jesus took time to pray and commune with his Father. If Jesus needed to pray, how much more ought we to commune with our Heavenly Father. Speak to God about that now. Praise the One who could walk on the sea! Ask God to help you walk by faith, trusting him completely, whatever he has called you to do. Declare that Jesus is the Son of God. Praise him for his amazing, miracle-working power to heal and transform lives.

Additional readings: Acts 20:13-238; Psalm 34; Exodus 30-31

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Read Matthew 15:1-20

TAI: How does the Matthew account differ from Mark 7, covered in a recent *Uniquely Jesus* message? What is the point Jesus is making when he quotes the prophet Isaiah? What do you think Jesus means when he calls the religious leaders “blind guides?” Think for a moment about each of the sins Jesus mentions in describing what “comes from the heart.” Are any of these a struggle for you? Why doesn’t *legalism* (making a list of rules and trying hard to follow them) cure the defilement problem? Is following Jesus different?

PP: “Heavenly Father, thank you for changing me from the inside out, for giving me divine heart transplant surgery. I thank you also for continuing your sanctifying work in me, filling me with your Holy Spirit, enabling me to live by faith in the Lord Jesus. Keep me from the foolishness of thinking that sin is more appealing than Jesus. Help me to see and savor Jesus Christ as the greatest treasure of all!”

Pray for our Director of Youth and Children’s Discipleship, Angela.

Additional readings: Acts 21:1-26; Psalm 35; Exodus 32-33

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Read Matthew 15:21-39

TAI: Just last Sunday our pastors preached on this passage. What did you learn from listening to Jayson or Dana’s message? What stands out about the woman who is imploring Jesus here? What was the problem that brought her to Jesus? Does Jesus insult her? Why or why not? What is the result? *What is crucial to our understanding of the significance of this remarkable exchange?* Why do you think there is a second account (this time for 4,000) of Jesus feeding a crowd with loaves and fish?

PP: Praise God that his good news and gift of his Son Jesus is not just for Jews, or for a select group of people, but for all the peoples of the earth. Praise him for being a global God! Praise him for his power to heal and deliver all who are in need, including you. Praise him for being your “Jehovah Jireh,” your great Provider. *Pray for the Wednesday night ministries taking place at Faith South tonight.*

Additional Readings: Acts 21:27-40; Psalm 36; Exodus 34

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Read Matthew 16:1-12

TAI: What is the point of Jesus' "weather lesson?" What was the sign of Jonah? [Note: they asked for a sign right after Jesus had healed and delivered many in need, had fed thousands of people, and walked on water!] What did Jesus mean by the "leaven" of the Pharisees and Sadducees? (see v. 12 to help you answer) Why does this incident reveal that they had little faith? No matter how much God has done for us, we are constantly tempted with unbelief! God help us.

PP: "Lord I believe, help my unbelief!" This could be our daily prayer. We have been blessed by God with an abundance in countless ways, but there is a constant temptation to doubt God's grace. Ask God to give you a bold, confident trust in him, believing that he is able to care for you and your family and provide what you need. Ask God to help you rest in his future grace (which will never run dry!). *On this Valentine's Day, pray for those you love!*

Additional Readings: Acts 22; Psalm 37:1-22; Exodus 35-37

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Read Matthew 16:13-28

TAI: Who is the "Son of Man?" Why does Jesus ask the question? (Notice also the "I am" in Jesus' second question.) Note Peter's clear and unequivocal answer. Why does Jesus refer to Peter as a rock? Ponder the "gates of hell will not prevail" statement of Jesus—what implications that has! What are the "keys" do you think? How does Peter respond to Jesus revealing his upcoming suffering? Why does he respond this way? Meditate on the last paragraph. Memorize vv. 24-26. Delight in the promise of Christ's second coming.

PP: There is so much meat here in this section—Wow! Pray through it, phrase by phrase, line by line, praising, rejoicing, and asking. Express to God your clear confidence in who Jesus is, what he has done for us, and what is yet to come. Rejoice in the promised triumph of the gospel in the church. Tell God that it is your desire to take up your cross, follow Jesus, and in Christ gain the kingdom.

Additional Readings: Acts 23:1-11; Psalm 37:23-40; Exodus 38-40

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Read Matthew 17:1-13

TAI: Another remarkable passage (Matthew is full of them!). What does “transfigured” mean? Who appeared with Jesus? Note: Peter *talks* in the excitement of the moment; God the Father says “*Listen!*” (We often could talk less and listen more—especially to God.) The Father calls Jesus his “beloved Son.” He is “well pleased” with him. Beautiful! What terrified the three disciples? What do we learn about John the Baptist in this account?

PP: Praise your way through this passage. That is, pray a prayer of worship and adoration—to God the Father and to his beloved Son, Jesus Christ. There is so much here that is worthy of our worship. Thanks be to God for this divine revelation of the glory and majesty of Jesus. *In light of this extraordinary passage, what do you want to tell God about yourself? How do you want to personally respond?*

Additional Readings: Acts 23:12-35; Psalm 38; Leviticus 1-4

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Read Mark 8:1-21

TAI & PP: This is now the second account of divine feeding of a multitude. Why do you think there is more than one? Reflect on that. What do we learn about the disciples through this? About Jesus? Why would the Pharisees ask for a sign when Jesus has already been doing miracle after miracle? To us, the disciples seem particularly dense in their questioning after seeing the miraculous multiplying of Jesus. What can we learn from this? Why should we be humbled?

Pray for the pastors preaching these verses. Ask God to speak powerfully in our worship as we revel in the glory of Christ.

Care Point: Romans 14:13... “Stop passing judgment on one another.” Read the “one another” in its context, the entire chapter 14 of Romans. What are some subjects where we might “pass judgment” on one another today?

Why are these differences so difficult to navigate?

What does “walking in love” look like in these situations?

As a Faith Group, pray about these things, asking God to enable you to walk in love and stop passing judgment in areas of freedom.