

FAITH BIBLE READING

Mar 18-24, 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, MARCH 18

Read Matthew 26:17-35

TAI: We now enter the final week—Holy Week, which begins with preparations for Passover. This meal was not the typical Passover meal that the disciples would have been accustomed to. Note three rather dramatic statements Jesus made that left His disciples sorrowful and confused. Imagine yourself sitting there among the disciples, how would you have felt? What would you be thinking?

PP: Jesus begins the meal with an accusation of betrayal and then identifies the betrayer (Judas). Jesus ends the evening on the Mount of Olives with another announcement of betrayal, this time announcing that all His disciples would fall away and deny Him. In the middle He institutes the Lord's Supper which uses the bread and wine to symbolize the sacrificial death He was about to endure. The greatest expression of love surrounded by betrayal! Praise God for His sacrificial love for us who have sinned against and betrayed Him.

Additional readings: Romans 10; Psalm 63; Deuteronomy 4-5

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Read Matthew 26:36-56

TAI: Jesus prays in Gethsemane, near the Mount of Olives. Who did Jesus take with Him? What specifically did Jesus pray? What were the disciples doing? What else was happening during this time? Note the contrast between what the disciples were doing and what Judas must have been doing during that same time. Imagine how the disciples might have responded to Jesus request to pray had they fully understood what was about to happen.

PP: The word “Gethsemane” means “an oil press” which was an instrument for pressing oil from olives. How appropriate that Jesus prayed in this place. No one can imagine the weight of what Jesus was about to face. The disciples surely didn’t. John 13:27 states that Satan had entered Judas. 1 Peter 5:8 calls us to be watchful, because our adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Ask God to help you stay awake and be watchful in prayer.

Additional readings: Romans 11:1-24; Psalm 64 Deuteronomy 6-8

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Read Matthew 26:57-75

TAI: Jesus is now arrested and put on trial. Who did He appear before? Note what they were looking for—vs 59. Did they find what they were looking for? How did they respond when Jesus told them the truth? Where was Peter during this time? What had happened to the rest of the disciples? How did Peter respond when he was questioned?

PP: We now have the fulfillment of what Jesus had declared during the Passover meal. Judas had betrayed him, the disciples had all fled him and Peter had denied Him. In John 8:44 Jesus called the devil the ‘father of lies’. Lying seemed to be the order of the day here. The chief priest, scribes and elders were looking for lies to accuse Jesus. They were so blinded that they couldn’t recognize the truth when Jesus told them. Even Peter got caught up in lying. Our culture seems to be quite preoccupied with lies as well. Pray for truth to be proclaimed!

Additional Readings: Romans 11:25-36; Psalm 65; Deuteronomy 9-12

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Read Matthew 27:1-10

TAI: There is a change of venue for Jesus' trial. Where does He go next? Matthew shifts focus briefly to Judas, Jesus' betrayer. What is Judas feeling now that he sees the outcome of his actions? What is Judas' response? What was the chief priests and elders' response? Contrast Judas' reaction to his betrayal of Jesus to Peter's reaction to his denial of Jesus. How were they different?

PP: In this passage we have a truly sad ending of one who had been with Jesus yet refused to recognize who He truly was. Once again, we see the work of the devil who seeks to devour and destroy. Praise God that Jesus came to give life (John 10:10)! Even with his betrayal of Jesus, Peter repented in tears and was later restored in fellowship with Jesus (John 21:15-19). Are you at a place of hopelessness and feeling you have betrayed Jesus? Repent and pray! God hears and will restore you. Don't let the devil deceive you and devour you.

Additional Readings: Romans 12:1-8; Psalm 66; Deuteronomy 13-17

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Read Matthew 27:11-26

TAI: Jesus now has a new trial but the same accusers. Who is Jesus standing before now? There are a number of characters that play a role in this passage. Can you identify them all? What role did each of them play in this scene? What was the end result?

PP: This must have been a chaotic scene for Pilate. Chief priests and elders accusing Jesus with lies. Pilate's wife telling him to have nothing to do with Jesus. The crowd rioting and shouting, "Crucify Him!" Jesus saying nothing and a notorious criminal is set free. Confusion reigns and the devil appears to have won. And yet all is going according to plan. See Acts 2:22-24. Are you in the midst of confusion and conflicting advice? Pray! Ask God for wisdom and trust in Him and His plan.

Additional Readings: Romans 12:9-21; Psalm 67; Deuteronomy 18-21

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Read Matthew 27:27-44

TAI: Admittedly this is a heavy section to read. The humility, mocking and torture that Jesus endured is not easy to imagine or identify with. What are your thoughts as you note the responses of the soldiers, the passersby, the chief priests, scribes and elders as this scene unfolded? How are those responses present in our culture today?

PP: Acts 2:23: *“This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God...”* Rejoice in God’s sovereignty! Praise God that the story doesn’t end here! Praise God that He completed His promise! Thank Jesus for His work on the cross! Pray for God to bring someone to you to share this story! Pray for openness in sharing and being aware that we all are called to share.

Additional Readings: Romans 13; Psalm 68; Deuteronomy 22-26

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Read Mark 10:1-16

TAI & PP: Jesus continues His teaching ministry and the focus here is on marriage and family. Note the high value Jesus places on faithfulness in marriage (which is God’s design) and bringing children to Jesus. How can we bring children to Christ? Please pray for Pastors Dana and Jayson as they preach on this message today. Please pray for our children’s ministry teachers and leaders.

Care Point: Galatians 5:25-26 *“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”* Keeping in step with someone means you keep your eyes and attention on them and what they are doing. Conceit and envy seem to be the result of self-centeredness. How do we keep in step with the Spirit?