

# FAITH BIBLE READING

Mar 25-31, 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 25

### Read Matthew 27:45-56

**TAI:** In what way did God the Father "forsake" the Son? Why did bystanders think Jesus was calling Elijah? Consider why the curtain would be torn in two: 1) the former sacrificial system has been replaced; Jesus paid it all. 2) the mercy-seat is no longer hidden; Christ is our Source of mercy. 3) an annual atonement is no longer needed; Jesus is the better and final sacrifice. 4) every believer now has free, direct access to the Father through the Son. We now can draw near to the throne of grace in any time of need! "Our bleeding Lord has the key of heaven; He opens and no man shuts." (all adapted from C. H. Spurgeon *Morning and Evening* 4/19)

**PP:** Rejoice in the cross and all it obtained for you! Pray a prayer of thanksgiving and praise for its every benefit, including your final resurrection and eternal home "at rest" in Jesus Christ. Thank the Lord Jesus for paying the ultimate price so that you can be saved. Pray for Pastor Dave Vilhauer. Pray for his family, and for areas of his responsibility (Faith U, Faith groups, Operations, and more).

**Additional readings:** Romans 14; Psalm 69:1-18; Deuteronomy 27-28

## TUESDAY, MARCH 26

### Read Matthew 27:57-66

**TAI:** Read twice through this description of Jesus' burial and guarding of his tomb. After reflection, jot your response here:

**PP:** Sing a song about the cross and all Christ did for you. Then turn that song into a prayer. We are just a few weeks now from Good Friday and Easter: ask God to prepare your heart and mind for Holy Week. Pray for those you would like to invite to Good Friday and Easter services. (Why not make a list; we have invitation cards you can use available at both campuses.) Pray for Pastor Jayson Wittrup, his family, and the great responsibility of weekly preaching and shepherding at our West Campus.

**Additional readings:** Romans 15:1-13; Psalm 69:19-36; Deuteronomy 29-31

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

### Read Matthew 28:1-10

**TAI:** Amazing detail! Copy the passage in your own hand:

(finish on a separate sheet if needed) What stands out to you?

**PP:** Pray through the passage, line by line, from your own handwritten copy. Pray for Pastor Dana, his family, and for wisdom in his responsibilities as Senior Pastor. Pray for his health as well.

**Additional Readings:** Romans 15:14-33; Psalm 70; Deuteronomy 32

## THURSDAY, MARCH 28

### Read Matthew 28:11-20

**TAI:** What “Passover plot” was put in place by the religious leaders with the soldiers? Why would eyewitnesses to Jesus’ resurrection be so crucial in light of this plot? (see I Cor. 15:6) Why is the “all authority in heaven and earth” statement so important to the Great Commission? What does it mean to “make disciples”? Note: the word for *nations* is *ethne* in the Greek, meaning people groups (language, tribe, etc.) rather than political nations. Why is baptism so crucial? What instruction does Jesus command? What promise does he give?

**PP:** What is your personal response to the Great Commission? Pray about it—offer yourself to God. Pray also that in our church we would be *willing to go, willing to send, and willing to pray*. Pray for our efforts to fully participate in the Great Commission. Pick one of our missionaries and pray for their work, their field of service, their personal walk with God, and their gospel success. Pray for our Missions Team and the great work they do.

**Additional Readings:** Romans 16; Psalm 71; Deuteronomy 33-34

## FRIDAY, MARCH 29

### Read Psalm 72

**TAI:** Like so many messianic passages, this Psalm has both temporal (Solomon as king) and eternal (Jesus as Messiah and King) reigns in view. The poem expresses a grand desire for King Solomon, but one which he in human weakness was not able to fulfill. But Jesus does fully and completely fulfill this vision for righteousness, peace, and an eternal reign. Truly before Jesus Christ every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that he is Lord (Philippians 2:9-11).

**PP:** This psalm calls to mind hymns such as “Jesus Shall Reign” by Isaac Watts (including this beautiful, contemporary version by the Getty’s: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kod46A3bFd0>). Pray a prayer of longing for the eternal reign of Jesus Christ! Express to God your submission to King Christ as your loving Lord and Leader.

**Additional Readings:** Mark 1:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:1-17; Joshua 1-2

## SATURDAY, MARCH 30

### Read Psalm 73

**TAI:** Memorize vv. 23-26, seeing that God holds us, guides us, and strengthens us. *These verses will stand you in good stead for the rest of your life.* “Asaph begins by standing true in what he believes about God, but he slips because he starts to look at neighbors and becomes envious. He wonders why the wicked prosper. When he loses his praise, he starts stumbling and suffering. He should have sought answers by looking up, not by looking around or within.” (Warren Wiersbe, *Prayer, Praise, and Promises*, Day 185)

**PP:** Do you sometimes struggle with envy toward wicked people who seem to prosper and experience worldly success? Are you tempted to look at others and doubt God’s goodness toward you? Confess that to God. Admit that sometimes your perspective gets skewed. Express your faith and hope in God’s grace and goodness, and thank him for holding you, guiding you, and strengthening you! Pray for those devastated by the recent flooding in our region.

**Additional Readings:** Mark 1:9-20; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Joshua 3-5

## SUNDAY, MARCH 31

### Read Mark 10:17-31

**TAI & PP:** Jesus answers the question with a question, thus making an important point—what is it? Note the love (v. 21) because the gospel writer wants us to notice it! What made the man sorrowful? Why is it possible for people dead in their trespasses and sins to be saved? Ponder “with persecutions” in v. 30. Then reflect on v. 31. What does this imply for you personally?

*Boldly call upon the Lord concerning those things most important to you in light of the truth, “All things are possible with God.” Pray for the worship services at both campuses and the pastors preaching.*

**Care Point:** Galatians 6:2 “Bear one another’s burdens.”

Read the statement in the context of the opening paragraph of Galatians 6. How does doing this fulfill the law? What is the role of humility in this (v. 3)? As you think about your life, how have other believers born your burdens? How can your Faith Group do this—even this very week!