

# FAITH BIBLE READING

Apr 29-May 5, 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, APRIL 29

### Read 1 Samuel 2

**TAI:** This chapter compares the faith and worship of Hannah with the corruption of Eli's sons. Compare Hannah's song/prayer with that of Mary (the Magnificat, Luke 1) and also Ps 113. It is one of praise and prophecy and reflects a full heart toward God and wisdom concerning his ways. Reflect on the evil of Eli's sons in vv. 12 and 17. God is blessing Hannah's household (vv. 20-21) while exposing the corruption of Eli's family. Ultimately, God's plan will bring an end to one priesthood and initiate another (vv. 34-35).

**PP:** Have you ever prayed a prayer with the richness and fullness of Hannah's prayer? She honors God for his awesome character; she acknowledges his great deeds toward her and her people; she looks forward to all that God will do in fulfilling his promises. Pray such a prayer now. Also, ask God to work mightily and graciously in your family, drawing your children to himself, giving them a new heart, a heart of faith and worship: "More like Samuel, not like Eli's sons."

**Additional readings:** Mark 9:33-50; 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; Psalm 95

## TUESDAY, APRIL 30

### Read 1 Samuel 3-5

**TAI:** Wow—an awesome section of Scripture! Comment on each:

God's call to Samuel:

The deaths of Eli and his sons:

God's judgment on those who captured the ark:

*What take-away from this will stay with you throughout today?*

**PP:** Pray through each of your comments and your take-away. What has God called you to do? Ask God for help in fulfilling that calling. According to Scripture, where did Eli go wrong with his sons? Ask God for help in leading your family to love and trust God and rely on his grace. In light of kingdom realities, confess that there is much rebellion against his word in our land, and ask for revival among Christians and spiritual awakening in our land. God help us!

**Additional readings:** Mark 10:1-16; 2 Corinthians 1:12-24; Psalms 96

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

### Read 1 Samuel 6-8

**TAI:** And so, the ark is returned to Israel. How did that happen? (*Imagine yourself as a goldsmith, commissioned to make tumors and mice of gold! Ha!*) When the ark arrived, how did the people respond? Why did God punish some of the men of the village that received the ark? What steps did Samuel take to restore Israel's walk with God? What can we learn from this? What sadness (echoing Eli) came into Samuel's life? How did Israel compound that sadness?

**PP:** In both Isaiah and Revelation, "Holy Holy Holy" is declared of our God. Yet, we live in a day when God's holiness is commonly denied, in favor of a vague view that "God is all love." Pray a prayer of praise to our Holy God! Express to God your desire to "be holy as he is holy" (1 Peter 1:15-16) and to grow in grace through Jesus Christ. Tell your Heavenly Father, "You alone are my King!"

**Additional Readings:** Mark 10:17-34; 2 Corinthians 2; Psalm 97

## THURSDAY, MAY 2

### Read 1 Samuel 9-10

**TAI:** And so begins the narrative of Saul's ascension to the throne of Israel. We learn that this son of Kish is tall and handsome, chosen by God and set apart to the task by Samuel, but rather reluctant to take on the calling. Fascinating: a search for donkeys becomes an anointing to kingship. Even to the last Samuel is warning the people that this is a rejection of God's reign and authority, but they heed him not (10:19). Saul, for his part, hides among the baggage.

**PP:** Sometimes God gives us what we ask for, even if it is not best for us. How much better to submit to God's loving lordship and leadership in our lives! It is never a good idea to reject God's ways for our own perception of what is best, yet people do this every single day. Pray a prayer of submission to God: to his will, his revealed will in his word, his authority over every detail of your life. Is there an area of your life where you have been refusing God's way or direction? Confess that to him. *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah!*

**Additional Readings:** Mark 10:35-52; 2 Corinthians 3; Psalm 98

## FRIDAY, MAY 3

### Read 1 Samuel 11-12

**TAI:** A changing of the guard: Saul rises in the sight of Israel by winning a stunning victory over the Ammonites, while Samuel prepares to his place of prophetic leadership. What was the key to Saul's leadership and vision in guiding Israel to victory? (Note: this will sadly change later in the story.) Samuel reviews two important details: He has not defrauded the people or in any way taken advantage of his position in a self-serving way. (How different from our own day!) And he recalls again the people's rejection of God's leadership and authority. Note the "if/but" condition of vv. 14-15.

**PP:** Thank the Lord for his gift of the Holy Spirit in your life as a believer. Tell God that you will not usurp his authority nor profiteer from the gospel. He is a faithful God! Thank him. Praise him. Trust him. Express your desire to be faithful in your calling as Samuel was. Reflect on 12:21 "empty things" and ask God for discernment.

**Additional Readings:** Mark 11:1-11; 2 Corinthians 4; Psalms 99

## SATURDAY, MAY 4

### Read 1 Samuel 13

**TAI:** What caused Saul's impatience in waiting for Samuel? How did Saul transgress his instructions from God while waiting? What was Samuel's stark response when he heard what Saul had done?

Are we ever impatient, waiting for God to work according to our timetable? Do we ever grow restless in waiting upon the Lord and do that which he has commanded us not to do? This is a pretty common expression of our fallen nature. Think of an example from your own life.

What shrewd thing did the Philistines do in preparing for battle?

**PP:** "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles" (Isaiah 40:31). Pray asking for God's grace to wait upon him, in trust and obedience. Confess the sin of becoming obstinate and refusing to wait. Ask God for greater patience in waiting and trusting (Proverbs 3:5-6). Ask for wisdom.

**Additional Readings:** None

## SUNDAY, MAY 5

### Read Mark 11:27—12:12

**TAI & PP:** The religious authorities who felt threatened by Jesus challenged him, and he answered with a question. Why did this question stump those men? How did they try to escape the trap of their own making? This is followed by an amazing parable. What point is Jesus making with this parable? How does this parable relate to the gospel? See Psalm 118:22-23.

*Pray for the pastors preaching on this parable and its context. Thank God for the authority, power, and wisdom of Jesus Christ, our Savior! Do you submit to that authority?*

**Care Point: Colossians 3:9** "Do not lie to each other..."

Read the entire paragraph as context. According to the context, why should we not lie to one another? How is truthfulness an expression of the "new self"? When might a person be tempted to lie to another? How is lying a refusal to trust God? How can we help one another in this?