

# FAITH BIBLE READING

Apr 15-21, 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 15

### Read Psalm 85

**TAI:** This psalm is a cry for revival and restoration. The people need to be revived in their relationship with God and restored to right fellowship with him. Sin has caused a breach between Creator and people; only by God's grace can reconciliation occur. This is something that has happened in the past (vv. 1-3); now it is needed "again" (v. 6); it is possible because of the character of God (v. 7). It is our place to listen to God and fear him; that is, to trust and obey (vv. 8-9). The psalm closes with a picture, the fruit of restoration.

**PP:** Church history records several periods of true revival (such as the Great Awakening). Will our Heavenly Father revive his people again? Will he come in power and glory by his Spirit and touch the church with renewal? Let us pray to that end! Thank God for such visitations in the past, ask for it to occur once again, and praise him for his mercy in Jesus Christ which makes revival possible. Confess that sin is a problem in the land—and in us! Ask him to start with us at Faith, and to spread it across our land and world. Come, Lord!

**Additional readings:** Mark 6:14-29; 1 Corinthians 10:14-33; Judges 8

## TUESDAY, APRIL 16

### Read Psalm 86

**TAI:** A very intimate and personal prayer, reflective of one who walks closely with God and knows God. Read through the prayer and ask yourself, “Is this the kind of personal relationship I have with God?” Notice the emphasis on God’s attributes, his character, in vv. 5, 10, and 15. What is the psalmist asking God to do? Do you desire those same things? There is opposition (v. 14); life is not easy. But God is able to turn that around (v. 17) and provide help and comfort. Notice the global scope of God’s gracious impact (vv. 8-10).

**PP:** This is a psalm you can simply pray yourself, line by line, thought by thought, adding in your own personal details as needed. Do just that. Pray this prayer to God. And pray for “the nations” to come to God through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Pray also for our upcoming Holy Week services at Faith South and West, including Good Friday and Easter morning. Pray for those you are inviting to join you. Ask God to work in a powerful way.*

**Additional readings:** Mark 6:30-44; 1 Corinthians 11:1-16; Judges 9

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

### Read Psalm 87

**TAI:** Do you know the hymn, *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*? If you do, you can’t help but start singing (or humming!) the tune as you read these words. Why are Gentile peoples listed here as “This one was born there”? (v. 4). As with the previous psalm, this song celebrates that the impact of Zion will be far beyond Zion, and we NT believers know that through Christ, in fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, all the nations shall be blessed. Even a song about Zion celebrates the Great Commission! Our destiny is heavenly Zion.

**PP:** Celebrate that “the springs” of Zion, the fountains of God’s great grace, nourish the peoples throughout the world, and carry us from this world to the heavenly Zion. Pray a prayer of thanks and praise to God for Jesus, the Lamb of God, who opened the gates of Zion to all who believe. Praise God for the Living Water of Jesus Christ.

**Additional Readings:** Mark 6:45-56; 1 Corinth. 11:17-34; Judges 10-12

## THURSDAY, APRIL 18

### Read Psalm 88

**TAI:** A lament for hard times, “the psalm instills a tough faith in its singers by reminding them to keep turning to God...even during these times when it seems there is no answer being given” (ESV SB). Have you gone through a lengthy period of sorrow and distress when it seemed like God was not hearing or responding? In such times we are tempted to turn away and look elsewhere; this psalm encourages continuing, persevering prayer in grief and sorrow.

**PP:** An appropriate psalm for the darkness of Maundy Thursday, commemorating the betrayal, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus the next day (Good Friday). Gritty, solemn, recognizing that sin yields hard results, perhaps you can relate to this “song” now or in the past. Yet, Sunday’s coming! Easter follows the darkness of the cross. Pray for a friend going through such a dark time (or for yourself, if you find yourself there). Ask God to send light and grace in sorrow and suffering. *Ask God to use this psalm to prepare your heart for tomorrow and Good Friday. Pray for Good Friday services at Faith.*

**Additional Readings:** Mark 7:1-23; 1 Corinth. 12:1-13; Judges 13-15

## FRIDAY, APRIL 19

### Read Psalm 89:1-18

**TAI:** For many readers, another song will come to mind. The darkness of Ps 88 now gives way to great hope and confidence in the covenant-keeping steadfast love of God. He is faithful! Warren Wiersbe asks, “How shall we respond to the faithfulness of God?” He suggests, from this psalm, we 1) sing of his faithfulness; 2) share God’s faithfulness with others; and 3) submit to his faithfulness (*Prayer, Praise, and Promises*, day 219).

**PP:** Note the emphasis in the psalm on the character and attributes of God. We exult in his faithfulness because of who he is—strong and mighty, righteous and just, loving and faithful (vv. 13-14). Pray a prayer of praise. Exalt the Lord. Submit to his reign in your life.

*On this Good Friday, humbly thank God for Christ’s sacrifice for you.*

**Additional Readings:** Mark 7:24-37; 1 Corinth. 12:14-31; Judges 16

## SATURDAY, APRIL 20

### Read Psalm 89:19-52

**TAI:** “There is one thing God cannot do—he cannot lie. When he makes a covenant, he keeps it, and we can hold on to his Word forever.” (Wiersbe, *P, P, and P*, day 221). God’s faithfulness to his Davidic covenant meant two things: first, that he would punish the people for disobedience and rebellion, but second, that ultimately he would deliver them. This he has done through the Ultimate David, Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Deliverer, and we are the beneficiaries!

*And we celebrate the resurrection Light tomorrow morning!*

**PP:** Reflect on the covenant faithfulness of God and how you as his child benefit from it. Prepare your heart and mind for Easter by pondering the darkness of yesterday (the crucifixion) and the light of tomorrow (resurrection hope in Jesus Christ). Praise God that he cannot lie. Praise God that he is faithful to every promise.

*Pray for Easter services, the pastors, and the musicians. Pray for those being baptized at the West Campus. Pray for our guests.*

**Additional Readings:** Mark 8:1-13; 1 Corinthians 13; Judges 17-18

## SUNDAY, APRIL 21 **EASTER SUNDAY!**

### Read I Corinthians 15 – What a chapter! What grand truth!

**TAI & PP:** It is Easter day! Hallelujah! The betrayal of Thursday, darkness of Good Friday, the despair of Saturday and the tomb, have now given way to RESURRECTION LIFE! What a Savior! What a faithful God! Up from the grave he arose, with a MIGHTY TRIUMPH over his foes. Sing, shout, and speak of the Living Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and his gracious, steadfast love toward you. Pray for those who still need him.

**Care Point: Ephesians 4:32** “...Forgiving one another.”

In this all-important verse, what is the basis of our forgiving others? Why does Easter Hope provide us with all we need to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, and forgiving? Who do you need to forgive today?