

FAITH BIBLE READING

Apr 22-28, 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 22

Read Psalm 90

TAI: It is generally thought that this Psalm was written by Moses while the Israelites were wandering in the desert for 40 years. Make a list of all the attributes of God that are mentioned in this Psalm. In a similar way, note all the descriptions of our human condition. What comes to mind when you think of God being 'wrathful'? Where should we find our hope and 'satisfaction'?

PP: God's wrath has been described as, "God's eternal detestation of all unrighteousness. It is the holiness of God stirred into activity against sin." (A.W.Pink). If we don't recognize God's holiness and other attributes, we won't understand His wrath or our need for repentance and forgiveness. Ponder one or two of His attributes listed in this Psalm. Praise Him for it! Confess and repent of any wrongdoing that God brings to mind.

Additional readings: Mark 8:14-21; 1 Corinthians 14:1-25; Judges 19

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Read Psalm 91

TAI: This Psalm is a beautiful testimony about finding security in trusting the Most High God. Make a list of all the threats and dangers the author of this Psalm describes. Note also the number of different words used to describe the security and protection God provides. What imagery comes to mind as you read this? What reason does the Lord give for rescuing His people? (Vs 14-15) What does a person need to do to receive God's protection?

PP: What threats or fears are you facing today that is occupying your mind and draining your energy? Call upon Him! He promises to answer, to guard, to deliver, to protect, to rescue, to be with us. Praise Him that He is our shelter, our refuge, our fortress, and our shield .

Additional readings: Mark 8:22-30; 1 Corinthians 14:26-40; Judges 20-21

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Read Psalm 92

TAI: A Psalm of thanksgiving and praise. Again, note all the attributes or characteristics of God described in this passage. How are some ways we can express our praise to God? Note the contrast between **God's** works and thoughts to the works and thoughts of **evildoers**. What is the ultimate outcome for the wicked? What is the ultimate outcome of the righteous?

PP: C.H. Spurgeon in his commentary on Psalm 92 writes that this Psalm was, "*intended to be sung upon the day of rest... The subject is the praise of God; praise is Sabbatic work, the joyful occupation of resting hearts. Since a true Sabbath can only be found in God, it is wise to meditate upon Him on the Sabbath Day.*" While today is not Sunday, it is still a day to praise God. Is your heart resting in Him today?

Additional Readings: Mark 8:31-38; 1 Corinthians 15:1-28; Ruth 1

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Read Psalm 93

TAI: This Psalm celebrates the Lord's reigning on the earth. What thoughts come to mind when you think of the 'majesty' of God? What evidence in creation of God's majesty and greatness does the psalmist give? (See Exodus 14:21-29). Because God is majestic and strong, as evidenced by His creation of the world we live in, what else can we be confident of? (vs15).

PP: In his book "Knowing God", J.I. Packer states, *"The word majesty, when applied to God, is always a declaration of His greatness and an invitation to worship. The Christian's instincts of **trust** and **worship** are stimulated very powerfully by knowledge of the greatness of God."* Is there something you are struggling to trust God in? Meditate on His majesty and pray!

Additional Readings: Mark 9:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:29-58; Ruth 2-3

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Read Psalm 94

TAI: This psalm recognizes the fact that vengeance belongs to the Lord. The psalmist calls on the Lord to do vengeance on wicked people who oppress the righteous. The vengeance of God is often associated with the deliverance of His people. What are some of the acts of the wicked that the psalmist records? What are some of the works of the Lord mentioned in vs 9-12? What is the difference between God's vengeance and His discipline?

PP: We live in a world where wickedness, evil and injustice are on display daily. The righteous and innocent are the ones threatened and killed. When the cares of your heart are many (vs19), seek consolation from the Lord. Be assured of His steadfast love for you, even when your foot slips (vs18). Seek God as your stronghold and your rock of refuge. Pray for Christians here and abroad that you are aware of who are being persecuted. Pray for the unborn, the most innocent among us.

Additional Readings: Mark 9:14-32; 1 Corinthians 16; Ruth 4

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Read 1 Samuel 1

TAI: Today we step into the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel and are introduced to Samuel the prophet. The birth of Samuel is God's answer to the prayer of a childless woman; he is also the answer to Israel's need for a prophet who will give God's guidance to His people in their transition from judges to kings. (ESV SB) What strikes you about this account? What other accounts come to mind of God answering the prayer of a woman unable to have a child?

PP: According to ESV SB, Samuel was known as the 'kingmaker' in ancient Israel. The central theme of the books of Samuel is God's kingship of His people Israel. Note Hannah's response to her situation—she continued praying before the Lord (vs 12). Although it is not completely clear who "he" is in verse 28, the response was worship. Pray as God leads.

Additional Readings: None

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Read Mark 11:12-26

TAI & PP: In Mark's account of Holy Week, Jesus returned to Bethany after His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. The next day He returns to Jerusalem, apparently without a parade. What does He do to the fig tree and why? What does He do in the Temple and why? What is the lesson of the fig tree? Is it connected to actions of Jesus in the temple? This weekend Pastors Jayson, Dana and Dave along with their wives will be at a Converge District Retreat in Omaha. Pray for Nathan Walter who will be preaching at the West Campus and Pastor Bill Menke at the South Campus.

Care Point: Ephesians 5:21 "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

Faith Groups ponder this question: How does submitting to one another show reverence for Christ? And what does submission look like?