

# FAITH BIBLE READING

June 3-9, 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. 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.

*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, JUNE 3

### Read Ephesians 1:1-14

**TAI:** Paul addresses this letter to the 'saints', who were both Jewish and Gentile believers. It may be interesting to note that verses 3-14 are all one sentence in the Greek. Paul highlights the spiritual blessings that God offers. Where are those spiritual blessings found? Are there blessings that God has withheld? What motivates God to bless us as He has? What are those blessings, can you list them? When we encounter troubles in this world, what comfort and hope do you find in verses 13-14?

**PP:** Before the foundation of the world, with all wisdom and insight and LOVE, God chose us! He has blessed us with knowledge of Him, forgiveness, redemption, adoption and transformation to the praise of His glorious grace! We are sealed with His Holy Spirit who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we possess it, all to the praise of His glory! There is much to thank God for and to praise Him for in these verses. Pray also for those God lays on your heart who do not have knowledge or possession of these spiritual blessings.

**Additional readings:** Luke 1:1-25; Psalm 119-1-8; 1 Kings 1

## TUESDAY, JUNE 4

### Read Ephesians 1:15-23

**TAI:** What is the evidence of faith that Paul makes note of in verse 15? Because of all the spiritual blessings that God offers, Paul continues to pray for the Ephesians. Note the specific things that Paul prays for those who already believe in Jesus. Are there any specifics that stand out to you? How has God already displayed His power to us who believe? Again, verses 15-23 are all one sentence in the Greek. Paul seems really excited about what he is writing!

**PP:** There are a number of specific prayer requests here that you can pray for yourself, for each member of your family, each of your friends and for the people of Faith. Pray for a Spirit of wisdom and knowledge of God; for a heart of understanding the hope we have in Christ; to know of the glorious inheritance we have; and to know more of His power toward us who believe. Coming to faith in Christ is only the beginning of a glorious relationship. Paul is praying for the Ephesians to “grow” in that relationship.

**Additional readings:** Luke 1:26-38; Psalm 119:9-18; 1 Kings 2-3

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

### Read Ephesians 2:1-10

**TAI:** At the end of chapter 1 we read how exalted Jesus is. How does that contrast with the beginning of chapter 2? What was the condition of the Ephesians, as us as well? Who is the prince of the power of the air? What are the evidences of his power? What has God done for us and why? What is it that we can NOT do based on our own works? Why should we be concerned about doing any good works at all?

**PP:** Paul again underscores the fact that it is because of God’s love and mercy He makes us alive, gives us faith by His grace. Praise God for extending grace to us, even when we were “dead”; grace that is not dependent upon our works. Ask God to show you the work that He has prepared for you, and for the strength to carry out that work. Remember the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe. (Chapter 1:19)

**Additional Readings:** Luke 1:39-56; Psalm 119:17-24; 1 Kings 4-5

## THURSDAY, JUNE 6

### Read Ephesians 2:11-22

**TAI:** Remembering the spiritual blessings that we have in God, Paul turns his attention to address a particular issue of disunity among the Ephesians. What was the issue? Why was there disunity? Who were the “Uncircumcision” and who were the “Circumcision”? What has the blood of Christ accomplished? Who is reconciled to God? Who has access in one Spirit to the Father? Who is being built together into a dwelling place for God?

**PP:** A recurring word in this section is “both”. Both the uncircumcised (Gentiles) and the circumcised (Jews) have been brought near, reconciled to God and have access to Him. No matter our background, our past performance, or our social status, there is unity in being reconciled to God. We are all part of the same family. Pray for the people of Faith Baptist to be shown where we fit into the grand, holy temple that Christ is building. Pray for unity and holiness in the church, the body of Christ.

**Additional Readings:** Luke 1:57-66; Psalm 119:25-32; 1 Kings 6-7

## FRIDAY, JUNE 7

### Read Ephesians 3:1-13

**TAI:** Where is Paul? What is the mystery that is now cleared up and understood by Paul? Where did Paul’s gospel calling come from? What was the nature of his calling? Through what means is God making known his great wisdom (v. 10) to rulers and authorities? What is the Source of our boldness and confidence as believers? What a Savior we have! What an impact the church of Jesus Christ is having all over the world and in heavenly places! By God’s grace we are populating heaven itself! Don’t lose heart—rejoice!

**PP:** Thank God that he has called you to be part of his church, with a grand reverberating impact that touches heaven and earth. Pray for the spread of the gospel of Christ to all Jews and Gentiles the world over. Ask God to increase your gospel boldness and confidence through faith in Christ and the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

**Additional Readings:** Luke 1:67-80; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Kings 8

## SATURDAY, JUNE 8

### Read Ephesians 3:14-21

**TAI & PP:** It makes sense to put our TAI and PP together, as we do on the Sunday readings, because this passage is a prayer to God offered by Paul, rich in glorious truth. It is offered *to the Father, on behalf of the church of Jesus Christ, for the building up of believers in the body.* Then it concludes by giving glory to God in a powerful and majestic way. Pray through the prayer, phrase by phrase, thinking of yourself and also of your fellow believers in our church family. Then conclude with praise and adoration to God, who truly is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think!

**Additional Readings:** Luke 2:1-20; Psalm 119:41-48; 1 Kings 9-10

## SUNDAY, JUNE 9

### Read Mark 14:1-11

**TAI & PP:** First, reflect on v. 9. Truly as we read this passage and as it is preached today at South and West campuses, the prophecy of this statement is fulfilled! Remarkable.

What plot is underway as the chapter opens? What would your visceral response be to an expensive bottle of perfume being *wasted*? Ponder how Jesus viewed it: she was actually preparing his body for burial. Jesus acknowledges that there is a place for ministering to the poor; but something far greater is going on here. The cross awaits.

Pray for our pastors preparing to preach on this passage. Thank God for the death of Jesus his Son on the cross for us. Thank God for this woman's deep and abiding act of worship.

***Pray for VBS opening tonight, for Angela Myers and her team of volunteers, and for a mighty work of the Holy Spirit among the children who attend.***