

FAITH BIBLE READING

May 13-19, 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, MAY 13

Read 1 Samuel 24-25

TAI: Lives are spared in our reading today. First, Saul's life is spared. How did that come about? What kept David from exacting revenge on Saul for seeking to do him harm? How did Saul respond to David? Second, Nabal's life is initially spared. How did that come about? What does Nabal's name mean? How was his behavior a reflection of his name? What lesson is indicated in the words Abigail spoke to David? What was the ultimate outcome of this fascinating chain of events? Since "the wages of sin is death" we all deserve physical and spiritual death. How are we spared?

PP: Praise God for his grace in sparing us the death that we deserve through the cross of Jesus Christ. Ask God for wisdom to offer grace to others rather than seeking to exact prideful revenge. Ask God for practical wisdom in dealing with people, as shown here so clearly by Abigail. Her discernment jumps off the page! Ask God for such discernment in the challenges of every-day life and relationships.

Additional readings: Mark 12:35-44; 2 Corinthians 10; Psalm 105

TUESDAY, MAY 14

Read 1 Samuel 26-28

TAI: What did Abishai want to do? Why didn't David let him do it? Who was responsible for the deep sleep of Saul and his army? Saul "repents" again and again but does not change. What can we learn from that? Why did David seek shelter among the Philistines? "As a result, he had to scheme, kill, and lie to survive" (Warren Wiersbe). Saul also started to scheme. What drove him to it? Whom did he consult? Why was this both evil and foolish? How was he rebuked?

PP: Dabbling in evil is always a foolish thing to do, whether scheming or consulting spirits or any other sinful pursuit. Ask God to guide you clear of any such evil that might harm you. If you are aware of sin in your life, confess it to the Father in heaven, plainly. Ask God for grace to "walk humbly with your God" in the fulness and power of the Holy Spirit. Thank God for the cross of Jesus Christ.

Additional readings: Mark 13:1-13; 2 Corinth 11:1-15; Psalm 106:1-23

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Read 1 Samuel 29-31

TAI: Why did the Philistine commanders not want to go to war with David and his men at their side? What horrible thing had befallen their city of Ziklag? "David strengthened himself in the Lord his God." What do you think that means? Certain fighters did not want to share the "spoil" of victory with those who stayed behind, but David showed both wisdom and grace. *In our weakness, God shows us his grace through Jesus Christ his Son!* Meanwhile, the fight with Achish proves deadly and disastrous for Saul and his sons. There is much to reflect on and ponder in these chapters.

PP: Take some time right now to "strengthen yourself in the Lord your God." Worship him with praise and prayer. Turn your thoughts from these chapters into prayer. Ask for much guidance (concerning your day, your week, your family) and grace (in loving others and living wisely). Pray for our church as we anticipate the coming of Thomas Slawson as a candidate for Worship and First Steps pastor.

Additional Readings: Mark 13:14-31; 2 Corinth 11:16-23; Ps 106:24-48

THURSDAY, MAY 16

Read 2 Samuel 1-2

TAI: What was David's response to the news of the deaths of Saul and Jonathan? Why did he have the messenger killed? Reflect on the lament of David (recall that he was a musician and songwriter). What insights does this lament give you? David is anointed king over Judah but not Israel. Who is now king in Israel? What sad event demonstrates the division and conflict between Judah and Israel? What brought the clash to an end, at least temporarily?

PP: Recently books have been written about the Lament psalms, and how we are not good at lamenting. What does it mean to lament? Are there things in your life you ought to lament? How do you express your sorrow, grief, and loss? Consider writing down a psalm of lament of your own. Pray about the things that grieve your heart and mind. Tell the Lord about your pain.

Additional Readings: Mark 13:32-37; 2 Corinth. 12:1-10; Psalm 107

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Read 2 Samuel 3

TAI: King David of Judah grows inevitably stronger, but there is intrigue on the journey to unifying Judah and Israel. What do you notice about David's sons (foreshadowing trouble)? What turned Abner from the house of Saul to David? What offer did Abner make to David? What sad history disrupts the proposed covenant between Abner and David? How does David respond to Joab's actions? Clearly, David's loyalties and affections are complicated! He honored Saul, loved Jonathan, sought to unify the kingdom, and yet understood the wounds Joab's family felt. Life is complicated!

PP: What makes life complicated for you? What history of pain, suffering, or bitterness makes it hard for you to sleep peacefully at night? Pray about these things. The prayers of the Bible make clear that we can be honest with God! We do not have to hide our hurts or hard things from God. We do not need to live in denial. Tell God like it is! After all, he already knows! Nothing catches him by surprise.

Additional Readings: Mark 14:1-11; 2 Corinth. 12:11-21; Psalm 108

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Read 2 Samuel 4

TAI: Another picture of the complicated loyalties in the kingdom at that time: David was a mighty warrior with evident gifts for training his fighters, yet he punished those who took the lives of Saul and Ish-bosheth, for he did not want to kill those he considered God's anointed in Israel. Leave to God that which is God's, a good lesson.

PP: Submit to God's loving lordship and leadership in your life. Are you trying to maneuver things according to your will, rather than trusting God's timing and plan? Confess that to him. Express to him your desire to let him shepherd and lead you and your family.

Additional Readings: None

SUNDAY, MAY 19

Read Mark 12:35-44

TAI & PP: What point is Jesus making about the Davidic prophecies concerning the Messiah? According to Jesus, why will the scribes be condemned? What was their sin? What is pretense? For what did Jesus commend the widow? How did her offering differ from others? Jot down a lesson from each:

1. Messianic prophecy
2. Sin of the scribes
3. Widow's offering

Then pray through each, applying the lessons to your life and seeking God's gracious help in your walk with him.

Care Point: **1 Thessalonians 3:12** "...may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all..."

Notice first that this is the Lord's doing, "May the Lord make you..." What do you think increasing and abounding in love might look like in a local church? In a Faith group? In a home?

Certainly our heart's desire is that our church have a reputation for love! "Love one another as I have loved you." Pray about this love in our church family. Encourage one another in love! Plan a practical "love step" this week, either personally or as a group.