

FAITH BIBLE READING

May 6-12, 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 6

Read 1 Samuel 14

TAI: Early in his reign we have already seen that Saul is impatient, impulsive, and often unwise. On the contrary, Jonathan his son displays both great trust in God and exemplary leadership. How are his faith and courage displayed here? What military tactic does God utilize to help Jonathan defeat the enemy? How is Saul's foolishness portrayed? What were the Urim and Thummim? Who protected Jonathan from his father's rash foolishness? Notice the use of the term *ransomed*, a glimpse of the gospel of God!

PP: These are common themes in the Bible: trust in the Lord, wait patiently for him, be strong and courageous in doing the Lord's work. How are you doing in these things? Talk to the Father about it. Ask for his grace to trust, wait, and take courageous action at the right time. Ask God for protection against foolish, rash actions.

Thank the Lord for good things shared at yesterday's Quarterly Meeting of Faith, and for our faithful Elder Council.

Additional readings: Mark 11:12-26; 2 Corinthians 5; Psalm 100

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Read 1 Samuel 15-16

TAI: Saul's duplicity is on display as a great victory becomes the occasion for a sad failure. What was that failure? Ponder 15:22-23. How might "rebellion" and "presumption" be a continuing issue for people today? What is the better way? How is it that the God of Israel is "not a man, that he should have regret" (v. 29) and yet also regret making Saul king (v. 35)? This is well worth your time to ponder and consider! What do we learn about God's ways from the account of the choosing and anointing of David to be the future king? How did God bring David into the court of Saul, and what did he do there?

PP: Express to God your desire to humbly walk with him in the obedience of faith, trusting him, aligning your life with his will by faith in Jesus. Confess any pockets of rebellion in your heart. Thank God for the cleansing of sin that is yours through Jesus Christ. Ask God to lead you and guide you by his sovereign providence.

Additional readings: Mark 11:27-33; 2 Corinthians 6; Psalm 101

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

Read 1 Samuel 17-18

TAI: Here we have one of the most famous battles in the Bible. Note the size and armament of Goliath versus David's. What was Goliath trusting in? What (or Who) was David trusting in? What was the reaction of Jonathon to David's victory? Contrast this to King Saul's reaction when the women sang their victory songs. What does this reveal about the hearts of Jonathon and Saul?

PP: David's offer to take on Goliath with only a staff and a sling was an act of unheard-of bravery and amazing trust in God. His victory thrilled a nation. Saul became afraid of David because he saw that the Lord was with David and no longer with himself. Praise God that one of the last promises Jesus made while on earth was that "I am with you always, to the end of the age". Does it give you comfort to know that Jesus will never leave or forsake you? It should.

Additional Readings: Mark 12:1-12; 2 Corinthians 7; Psalm 102

THURSDAY, MAY 9

Read 1 Samuel 19-20

TAI: Reflect on the powerful question of v. 5. “Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing...without cause” as it relates to the sin of abortion in our time—infants being killed without cause. Despite Jonathan’s intervention on David’s behalf, Saul again turns against David. Michal too protects David from her father. Reflect on the faithful friendship of Jonathan to David. Why would Saul say that Jonathan had chosen David “to your own shame”?

PP: Confess to God the rampant sin of abortion in our age. Ask God to move in the hearts of mankind to end this troubling, evil practice of taking innocent blood without cause. Pray for the Alpha Center ministry here in Sioux Falls. Thank God for faithful friends who have been a gift and blessing in your life. Then thank God that Jesus is the most faithful and loving friend of all! (see John 15:15) Ask God to give you friends, mentors, and models of Christian devotion and faithfulness who will strengthen you and disciple you in the Christian life.

Additional Readings: Mark 12:13-27; 2 Corinthians 8; Psalm 103

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Read 1 Samuel 21-22

TAI: David is now on the run from King Saul when he comes to Ahimelech. What was the source of uncertainty or tension over eating the bread? Jesus alluded to this chapter in Matthew 12. Note the presence of Doeg, which foreshadows a future event. David then escapes to the cave of Adullam. (Psalm 57 and 142 give insight into what David was experiencing.) David’s family is drawn to him in the cave. Who else was drawn to him?

PP: Pray through Psalms 57 and 142. What imagery opens Psalm 57? “In the shadow of your wings” is worth pondering and praying for yourself and your loved ones. Notice how David intersperses praise and pleas, a good idea for our prayers as well. More beautiful imagery closes this Psalm. From Psalm 142: Does your spirit ever faint? Tell God all about it. “You are my refuge” is a wise and helpful prayer for hard times.

Additional Readings: Mark 12:28-34; 2 Corinthians 9; Psalm 104

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Read 1 Samuel 23

TAI: How did David discern that he was to go and fight the Philistines at Keilah? What is an ephod? How was it used? What was the outcome? Ponder the phrase “strengthened his hand in God” from v. 16. What do you think that looked like? Have you experienced that? It is so sad to read about Saul chasing after David, trying to defeat him, when David was in fact trying to avoid Saul and a direct confrontation with him. Why was this foolishness by Saul?

PP: It is sheer foolishness to try to thwart the will of God. How much wiser to trust in God and fully submit to his will. Pray a prayer of personal submission to your Heavenly Father, expressing trust in him and asking him to guide you and shepherd you by his word. Thank God for believing brothers and sisters who “strengthen your hands in God.” Offer yourself to strengthen others in their faith.

Additional Readings: None

SUNDAY, MAY 12

Read Mark 12:13-34

TAI & PP: Three more attempts to trap Jesus fail miserably and as a result we have truly brilliant truths from the Lord to ponder. Reflect on each and jot down a thoughtful, personal response:

“Render to Caesar...and to God...”

“He is not God of the dead, but of the living.”

“...love the Lord your God will all your heart...”

Pray for the pastors as they preach on these precious, wonderful truths today. Ask God for grace to apply these truths in your life.

Care Point: Colossians 3:16 “Teach and admonish one another”
Read the entire paragraph, rich with great truths for living the Christian life. Notice that this “teaching and admonishing” is rooted in God’s word and worship (v. 16). How is this lived out week by week in our church? How can a Faith Group provide a context for helping one another in this way?