

FAITH BIBLE READING

Aug 12-18, 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, AUGUST 12

Read Proverbs 8-9

TAI: When we think about wisdom, we tend to think it's something we develop. But in this passage, God tells us he created it, in fact, in verse 22 it tells us it's present at creation! Possessed by God at creation, now freely given to all who ask for it in his name. In chapter 9, we see that people lacking wisdom don't have to stay that way. They are invited to consume that which will give them wisdom. What is that you say? Verse 10, fear of the Lord is the first course and knowledge of him is second. We find that by studying the Bible. Yes, there will be those who react violently to wisdom, they do not see that their direction takes them to a grave. The Bible calls that a fool. If I remember, Mister T, from the old TV show "The A-Team", used to say, "Don't be a fool!" Good advice.

PP: God, you give graciously to us so many blessings. We have so many decisions that we make daily. May your wisdom flow from your Word into our lives. We ask Lord for wisdom as our lives desire to glorify You. Amen

Additional readings: Luke 16:19-31; 2 Timothy 1:1-7; Nehemiah 4-5

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

Read Proverbs 10:1-16

TAI: On TV, it seems most of the shows, non-cable at least, are shows about crime. One show, “American Greed” seems to never run out of stories of how deceitful man can be when it comes to money. As always, the desire is for more, which leads to schemes, smooth talk, zealous promises, the fast-track to becoming the “Big Man”, then the train comes off the rails, investigations, loss of money, broken promises, jail time, identity gone. This summarizes what it says in verse 16, wickedness takes you to ruin. Doing what is right, a wage of blessing. Again, foolishness leads to destruction, wisdom leads to life.

PP: God, thank you for your promises which are sure, for your love that you lavished on us, for the blessing of your return. Truly we are rich in You. Your faithfulness is to all generations. Amen.

Additional readings: Luke 17:1-10; 2 Timothy 1:8-18; Nehemiah 6

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

Read Proverbs 11:17-32

TAI: Within the marvels of modern medicine is the ability to do organ transplants. Heart, lung, kidney, but what about the tongue? The tongue shares the unique ability to be a key transporter of food and also a transporter of thought, what we call communication. It can be used by the fool or the prudent. Either way we see it reflects the heart and mind of men. It is either driven by wickedness or righteousness. One will condemn, one will give blessing. We all have been blessed by someone who prayed with us or encouraged us with a kind word. What a gift from God! Praise be to Him!

PP: God, teach me to use my tongue in ways that glorify You. I ask for discernment in what to say, help me to weigh my words. As You have blessed the righteous, may I be a blessing to others. Amen.

Additional Readings: Luke 17:11-19; 2 Timothy 2:1-13; Nehemiah 7

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Read Proverbs 11

TAI: As you can tell, Proverbs is a book of comparative contrasts. Righteous versus wicked, wise versus fool, straight versus crooked, benevolent versus selfish, good versus bad. There would hardly a movie be without that theme. Isn't it interesting that we can identify those characters easily in a movie but cannot see these same characteristics in ourselves? As it says in verse 22, "like a gold ring in a pig's snout." This should be obvious, but sometimes we are blind unto ourselves. Ask the Holy Spirit to define those areas as he molds us into Christ's likeness.

PP: Jesus, You are holy and became righteousness for our sin. May Your Spirit affect our hearts and minds to change us into a pleasing sacrifice as it says in Romans 12:1-2. Forgive us Lord in our blindness, give us sight. We give You glory for transforming power! Amen.

Additional Readings: Luke 17:20-37; 2 Timothy 14-26; Nehemiah 8

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

Read Proverbs 12

TAI: I will admit it, that first verse is a tough one, love discipline? Within our very being, from a very tender age, when we utter these words, "I can do it myself!" it reveals what we feel about reproof. Most of us are as Dr. Dobson used to say, "Sitting down on the outside, but standing up on the inside." In my store, in retail business, we serve people. That gives people the option to tell us what they think of us. Sometimes it is thankfulness and appreciation, other times, not so much. We call that a complaint. That is sometimes hard to be reproofed when not justified, "Did you read the directions?" But as I have been told, 10% of the worst complaint is still accurate. Are you sitting down or standing up?

PP: Oh Lord, I am stubborn and hard-hearted. I fail to see Your discipline as love for me. I am as a prodigal son. Clean me up, purify my heart. Let me see your reproof as love to keep me safe and secure in the shadow of your wings. Amen.

Additional Readings: Luke 18:1-8; 2 Timothy 3:1-9; Nehemiah 9

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

Read Proverbs 13

TAI: “Do I have your attention?” Throughout Proverbs this is a theme. “I am trying to tell you something valuable, listen up!” Whether it is our behavior, our tongue, our money, or lack of it, our desires, hopes, or future plans, it is in our best interest to hear what the Bible says to us in a very practical way. Probably the most avoided verse these days is verse 24. Sometimes the only way to get our attention is by pain. Although it is a very shocking description, David writes in Psalm 51:8, “Let the bones you have broken rejoice!” If God wouldn’t have gotten David’s attention this way, do you think he would have experienced conviction, sought forgiveness and pleasure in becoming obedient to his “Father”? So it is with us. You shouldn’t hit yo mamma without being strongly corrected, nor should we expect God not to “break” us when we step outside of his loving boundaries.

PP: Father, “all we like sheep have gone astray.” Call us back with your everlasting love. May your Holy Spirit convict and move us to confessing our sin, so that we experience your completeness in our lives. Amen.

Additional Readings: Luke 18:9-17; 2 Timothy 10-17; Nehemiah 10

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Our desire here at Faith is to build a family of Christ-like believers who are proclaiming a cross-centered gospel and living cross-centered lives. To reach that goal, we have identified **5 Loves** to keep us focused. For the next 2 Sundays we will continue preaching on these **5 Loves**.

Love God - - - Mark 12:30

Love God’s Word and Prayer - - - Ephesians 6:17-18

Love One Another - - - John 13:34-35

Love Our Neighbors - - - Galatians 5:14

Love the Gospel - - - Romans 1:16