

FAITH BIBLE READING

Aug 19 - 25, 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 19

Read Proverbs 13:13-25

TAI: These verses set up a distinct contrast between the life of a man or woman who gladly accepts godly instruction vs. those who reject such guidance. On a sheet of paper you might want to create two columns. One column should be labeled "Listens". The other column should be labeled "Rejects". As you read these verses write the attributes or results of listening to instruction vs. rejecting instruction. Consider verse 20 carefully. Are you associating or "walking" with wise friends? What is the result?

PP: God's word instructs us in the paths to wisdom. Pray that the words of Proverbs would sink deeply into our hearts. Pray that we would gladly accept instruction from His Word rather than reject it. Pray that God would grant wisdom in our daily decisions, even the small decisions that may not seem important. Pray for wise friends and companions with whom we can surround ourselves.

Additional readings: Luke 18:18-30; 2 Timothy 4; Nehemiah 11

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

Read Proverbs 14:1-18

TAI: God rewards the sensible labor of a wise woman. These verses in Proverbs contrast such labor with the acts and words of the foolish which can sometimes destroy years of hard labor. Notice how much emphasis is placed upon the effects of our words. What sort of words are you using towards others? Are your words building others up or causing destruction? Think of someone in your life who has earned your respect and admiration. Most likely that person has been careful in choosing and using their words. Does that describe you? Focus on vs. 12. How are you determining the path that is right?

PP: Pray that God would help us to control the use of our tongue. Pray that our words would help to build others up and honor our Lord. Pray that you would be a man or woman of understanding (see vs. 6) rather than a “scoffer” (someone who jeers or mocks or treats others with contempt or calls out in derision.)

Additional readings: Luke 18:31-43; Titus 1:1-9; Nehemiah 12

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

Read Proverbs 14:19-35

TAI: Look at vs. 20 and consider your own attitude toward the poor. This verse is certainly not endorsing a dislike or disdain for the poor. It is merely pointing out the ways of the world. Verse 21 provides insight to God’s attitude toward the poor, especially the poor who happen to be our neighbor. Read Luke 10:29-37 to help understand who your neighbor is. Can you think of some ways that you might demonstrate generosity to the poor? Vs. 26-27 reveal a couple of consequences that result from a healthy “fear” of the Lord (there are many more!), but these are certainly precious promises.

PP: Pray for a humble, generous attitude toward our neighbors who may be poor. Thank God for revealing Himself through scripture (especially the words of the Proverbs) and providing guidance to live an abundant life.

Additional Readings: Luke 19:1-10; Titus 1:10-16; Nehemiah 13

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

Read Proverbs 15:1-17

TAI: These verses instruct us in the importance of guarding the condition of our hearts. From reading and considering the words of this passage, what are some ways we can judge the condition of our own hearts? Notice in verse 7 the tight connection between our hearts and our lips/tongue. Understanding and heeding the principles outlined in vs. 4-5 are particularly important in maintaining a healthy relationship between parents and children. Read these verses again carefully and consider how you speak, instruct and correct your children.

PP: Ask God to help you continually guard your heart, (Proverbs 4:23) for from it flow the springs of life. Meditate on the condition of your own heart. Confess any sinful or harsh use of your tongue. Praise God that we have a Savior who understands and forgives our weakness. Pray that the Holy Spirit would change our hearts and provide a spirit of gentleness and humility so that our words, attitudes and actions are pleasing to Him.

Additional Readings: Luke 19:11-27; Titus 2:1-10; Esther 1

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Read Proverbs 15:18-33

TAI: These verses speak to the effect of the foolish man's words contrasted with the words of a man who fears God. Can you list the characteristics of a foolish man? These verses also describe the godly man as a "man of understanding" (vs. 21). How does one become a man or woman of understanding? (Hint: See Romans 12:2). Read vs. 18 and then vs. 28. What advice do you see regarding the temptation to respond quickly when you are angry?

PP: Pray that the Lord would give us the wisdom, strength and patience to control our tongue. Thank God that, only because of Jesus, we are not condemned when our thoughts, words and actions would completely justify condemnation. Pray that you would gladly accept the good counsel of many advisors (vs. 22) rather than acting hastily out of anger, greed or other impure motives.

Additional Readings: Luke 19:28-38; Titus 2:11-15; Esther 2

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Read Proverbs 16:1-16

TAI: The first verses in this section (vs. 1-9) focus on the importance of the heart-action connection. When you consider your own plans, how do you determine what actions you will take? Much of the instruction from Proverbs this past week had pointed us to the importance of cultivating a heart of humility vs. those who are arrogant in spirit (see vs. 5). Why do you think humility is such an important character trait? Verse 9 explains that “the heart of a man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps”. Consider what it means to have the Lord establish your steps. What does that mean? Is this comforting to you? What are some possible responses to the Lord establishing your steps?

PP: Pray for a heart that is pure and yields to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Pray that your actions and plans would be led and established by Him rather than our own selfish desires. James 1:5 tells us “if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” Today, pray to the Lord for wisdom in the decisions you make and the actions you take.

Additional Readings: Luke 19:39-48; Titus 3:1-8; Esther 3-4

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

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.

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