

# LOVE GOD'S WORD & PRAYER

## Daily Bible Reading

At Faith Baptist Fellowship, we *Love God's Word and Prayer*. We strongly believe that every growing disciple of Jesus needs to be regularly hearing from God through His word and personally speaking back to God through prayer. If regular Bible reading is not yet a habit of yours, this is a great way to get started!

**We are encouraging everyone to begin 2021 with spending time in the Psalms.** We will provide devotional thoughts and helpful prayer points on the passages. The weekend material will prepare you for the upcoming Sunday sermon as well as provide some discussion help for Faith Groups.

*We encourage you to set aside at least 15-20 minutes a day for reading and prayer. If you fall behind, just start on the current day. Try to develop the habit of reading at the same time and place. Have a journal and pen for answering questions and recording your thoughts and insights. For additional Bible reading plans check out our website at [www.faithsf.com](http://www.faithsf.com). Enjoy your time in God's Word and Prayer!*

## Monday, January 4

Read Psalm 2

**THINK:** Verse 1 is a question. What is the answer to the question? Why are the efforts and plots of the kings and rulers fruitless? How does God respond to their conniving? This Psalm is one of the most well-known *messianic psalms or royal psalms*. In immediate view is King David; but the psalm also takes a long-lens view, looking to God's future Anointed, a messiah from the line of David. We know now that Jesus is that Messiah, truly the Son of God, the final King and Ruler of the nations in fulfillment of the promise God made to Abraham. What does "Kiss the Son" look like for us today?

**PRAY:** Rejoice with thanksgiving that God sent his Son the Lord Jesus to be the Deliverer, Messiah, Savior and Final King of Kings. Thank God that though nations and their rulers raise their fist at God and seek to create havoc in his world, God is in control and will bring all things to completion in Christ Jesus: the ends of the earth will be his possession! Tell your Heavenly Father that you have fully embraced the Son as your Lord and Savior, and that you will serve him as long as you live, including this new year of 2021.

## Tuesday, January 5

Read Psalm 3 & 4

**THINK:** These two Psalms are penned in times of distress and great opposition. Sleep is hard to come by, and there is present danger of not waking from it. The opponents question whether God will truly deliver. To this the Psalmist cries, “You, O Lord, are a shield about me” (memorize vv. 3-4; they will come in handy in hard times!). The Psalmist counts on God to give salvation and deliverance; he cries out to God for help in distress and counts on God to hear him. Be suspicious of vanity and lies; instead, count on the Lord for relief and safety and restful sleep. Trust in the Lord and find joy!

**PRAY:** What distresses you currently? Have you told your Heavenly Father? Pray through these two Psalms, line by line. Let them guide your own prayer. Fill in the “blanks” of what is causing you fear and doubt. Use these lines to guide you into expressing your trust and confidence in God’s help and care for you. Think of family, friends, workplace, and our church and nation: pray for others as you have prayed for yourself. Thank God for his promised help today!

## Wednesday, January 6

Read Psalm 5

**THINK:** Pastor Dana says, “Many years ago, Maranatha Singers had a simple song of prayer using Psalm 5:1-3. I still sing it to myself often. It is a wonderful prayer/song to begin the day.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVfjusz06M> (or search Psalm 5 Maranatha Sings). Beginning at v 4, the Psalm draws a series of contrasts. To whom does God say, “No”? List 7 items or so

To whom does God say, “Yes”? List about 4 items

**PRAY:** Begin with the first 3 verses, making them your own prayer. Then pray through the list of things that displease God. If you feel any conviction, confess sin to the Lord. Then pray through the things that please God. Make them your desire and agenda for this day. Ask for God’s help by the Holy Spirit and his word. Let verses 11-12 be your joy and hope and delight for this day!

## Thursday, January 7

Read Psalm 6

**THINK:** Dr. John Sailhamer: “Again David returns to the theme of waiting patiently for God’s response. David is in anguish as he waits for God to act--“But you, O Lord--How long?” (v.3), but still he knows that God has promised to save him (v.4) and that the Lord has heard his prayer (v.9). The terminology that David uses in v.4...shows that his thoughts are on God’s promise to send an eternal king.” [See II Samuel 7, esp. v.16.] Are you weary? Is your bed drenched with your tears? Put your trust in the Lord and wait patiently for relief! He has promised to save those you trust in him.

**PRAY:** Whatever is causing you to languish, whatever is troubling your bones, tell your Heavenly Father! Lay it all out there for him. After all, he already knows! Express the reality of your soul to him, don’t hold back. Then also tell him of your love and trust and hope in his promises. Thank him for the promised relief. Thank him for his faithfulness and steadfast love and mercy. Thank him for Jesus, our Eternal King! “Why are you downcast, soul? Hope in God!”

## Friday, January 8

Read Psalm 7

**THINK:** There is much blunt language in this Psalm about the enemy. But first, notice that God is for the Psalmist a refuge (v.1) and a shield (v.10). This the third time this week we’ve read that God is a shield! Is he your shield and refuge? Also notice that the Psalmist recognizes that his own iniquity may be part of the problem (vv.3-5). He is not naïve about his sins. Nevertheless, he pulls no punches about the evil of his enemy (v.14). They need to repent. But wicked people seem to flourish. It feels like the righteous are being defeated. Yet, the enemy will fall into his own pit! His own snare will entrap him (vv.15-16). So, thank the Lord and trust him!

**PRAY:** Declare to the Lord that he is your refuge and shield! Express your confidence in his everlasting care and promised faithfulness. Is their sin in your life that you need to admit? Tell the Father. Is there an enemy crouching at your door? Tell the Father! There is no reason to hold back. You need help; God is your helper.

In light of v. 17 that closes this Psalm, pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all that he has done. Sing praise to his name! Thank God for his promises, his Spirit, and his word.

## Weekend, January 9-10

Read Genesis 47:1-31

If you've fallen behind this week, consider using these extra days to catch up. You can also prepare your heart and mind for this Sunday's worship service. Read the planned sermon text above and the thoughts below in advance of Sunday morning's message. If you are in a Faith Group, consider discussing the questions below together.

**THINK:** We have been gone from Genesis for the Advent season, so perhaps you need a bit of review. Start at Genesis 1, and leaf through the pages, reminding yourself of all we have studied for the last year and a half.

When last we left Genesis, Joseph had revealed himself to his brothers and then welcomed his father and the entire household to Egypt, saving them from starvation in the great famine and protecting the people of Israel from extinction. How does Joseph prepare his family for meeting Pharaoh? What is the outcome?

What does Jacob do upon meeting Pharaoh?

How does Joseph shrewdly enrich Pharaoh but also protect the people from starvation in the famine?

**PRAY:** This week we have seen in the Psalms that God is a refuge and shield for his people who trust in him. In this great book also we see God protecting his people from harm and working out his will. Pray for God's protection from the calamities of today. Yet also ask him for a bold and courageous faith to stand firm in following Jesus today. Pray for Pastor Dana (South) and Nate Walter (West) as they preach on this chapter.