

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 continue our daily bible readings with spending time in Proverbs. 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. Enjoy your time in God's Word and Prayer!

Monday, October 4

Read Proverbs 18:13-24

THINK: O that we would be better listeners! Have you experienced a "crushed spirit" and if so, how did God help you? Thank you for spending time in God's word to acquire biblical knowledge! May it lead to wise living. Verse 17 is the basis for our legal system allowing cross-examination. How is quarreling like the bars of a castle? Of what NT passage do these proverbs concerning the tongue remind you? Verse 22 introduces what will be a familiar theme as we move forward, and how true it is! Who is the truest friend who sticks closer than a brother? Choose a couple of these proverbs that hit close to home and make them the basis for your time of prayer.

PRAY: Thank God for giving us Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and Friend who sticks closer than a brother! Ask the Father for grace concerning the proverbs you selected as having personal importance for your life right now. Tell the Lord what those statements brought to mind; then ask for his help.

Tuesday, October 5

Read Proverbs 19:1-9

THINK: Why is it vitally important for professing Christians to walk with integrity? Why is “living in a hurry” not a good idea? Have you seen a person blame God for their sin? Why do you think people do that? Does verse 4 point out a danger? (Contrast verse 4 with 18:24.) The integrity theme continues with the necessity of speaking the truth. Verses 6-7 remind us of how precious it is to have a faithful friend in Jesus Christ! He is true in all circumstances, and “will never leave us or forsake us.” Does the Bible commend common sense? Yes, verse 8 certainly does: sense and wise understanding.

PRAY: It is worthwhile to give some serious thought to the matter of personal integrity. We are tempted to excuse our sins and blame God or others. Hypocrisy deadens the witness of the church of Jesus Christ. Make this a matter of prayer. (Perhaps a matter of confession, if needed.) Also, pray about being a friend to a needy person in your sphere of influence. Your friendship might alter the direction of someone’s life! Ask God for good sense and wise, biblical understanding.

Wednesday, October 6

Read Proverbs 19:10-19

THINK: Can you think of an example of a fool living in luxury? It is actually quite common today. To be slow to anger and forgiving of offenses is to live biblically! God is slow to anger and forgives us through Jesus Christ. In verse 13, don’t get hung up on gender: a foolish daughter or a quarreling husband are no better. A prudent wife is better than a million dollars. Integrity is the issue once again-- in the negative, regarding sloth and idleness, in the positive, with regard to generosity. How does sound discipline give hope? Our passage ends with a warning concerning angry people.

PRAY: Many fools today try to live in luxury by borrowing. Credit cards bury many people. Ask God for wisdom in handling money and living within your means. Ask God for grace to be slow to anger and forgiving toward others, just as God in Christ has forgiven us. Thank God for your family members; pray for any currently having difficulty or unbelief. Ask for wisdom in loving discipline of children. Is an angry person ruining your joy? Tell the Lord all about it.

Thursday, October 7

Read Proverbs 19:20-29

THINK: Write a sentence or phrase in response to each proverb:

- 20-
- 21-
- 22-
- 23-
- 24-
- 25-
- 26-
- 27-
- 28-
- 29-

PRAY: Now pray through each of the lines you have written, asking God for grace, wisdom, and the help of the Holy Spirit in each instance. Are there two or three which are most challenging for you personally? Share the details with God in earnest, heartfelt prayer. "Father, grant me spiritual maturity and growth in these life matters."

Friday, October 8

Read Proverbs 20:1-10

THINK: Write a sentence or phrase in response to each proverb:

- 1-
- 2-
- 3-
- 4-
- 5-
- 6-
- 7-
- 8-
- 9-
- 10-

PRAY: Now pray through each of the lines you have written, asking God for grace, wisdom, and the help of the Holy Spirit in each instance. Are there two or three which are most challenging for you personally? Share the details with God in earnest, heartfelt prayer. "Father, grant me spiritual maturity and growth in these life matters."

Weekend, October 9-10

Read Colossians 1:21-23

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: The whole of the salvation message in about 3 lines of truth! It describes what we are (hopefully, what we were!) apart from Jesus Christ. It details what Jesus Christ has done for us at the cross, reconciling us to God. It makes clear the ongoing work of grace in our lives as God sanctifies us, transforming us into a new, holy people. It also makes very clear that perseverance in the faith, continuing to walk with Jesus, is the evidence of genuineness. That's a lot of truth in a few lines of scripture. Like a challenge? Memorize these 3 verses! Or at least, become thoroughly familiar with them, grasping the logic of Paul's flow of thought and taking the gospel deep into your heart and mind.

PRAY: What a power-packed passage! Pray for our pastors who will preach on these grand truths. Ask God to prepare you to hear the message and take it to heart. Pray for any hearers who aren't yet born again. In fact, pray right now for lost people in your sphere of influence or family who have not yet repented and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. Ask God to move mightily in their lives, taking out hearts of stone and giving them hearts of flesh (believing new hearts that beat with faith in Jesus).

FAITH GROUP: How can a brief summary of the gospel, like this passage, be helpful to us in living the Christian life? In witnessing to others? How might you use this passage in counseling another person who is struggling?

After your discussion, pray that God might open a door for you to share this gospel truth with someone this week!