

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 faithsf.com. Enjoy your time in God's Word and Prayer!

Monday, November 15

Read Proverbs 28:19-28

- THINK:** 19. Hard work is valued; sloth is discouraged.
20. God blesses the faithful; don't attempt shortcuts to riches.
21. Character flaws: partiality (James 2:1-9), being easily bought.
22. Generosity is valued; stinginess is not. It leads to poverty.
23. Speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15) rather than flatter.
24. Honor your father and mother; to harm them is destruction.
25. Greed is trouble indeed. Trust God! Enjoy the wealth of grace.
26. Don't be a self-reliant fool. Walk freely in the wisdom of God.
27. Generosity is rewarded. Avoiding it leads to trouble. Give!
28. O that the righteous in Christ would rise in our day. Please God!

PRAY: First, praise God for his kindness in sharing divine wisdom with us. Thank him for his gift of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Pray through each line of these Proverbs. Express to God how they apply in your walk with him right now. Pray for yourself. Pray for others you love. Pray for our church. Pray for our nation and world.

Anticipating Change: pray for West Campus and the team there.

Tuesday, November 16

Read Proverbs 29:1-9

- THINK:** 1. Hear reproof before it is too late! Don't be proud.
2. Tragedy: when wicked leaders are chosen. O for righteousness!
3. Sexual sin leads to utter ruin. Be wise! Make your parents happy.
4. Oh for just leadership that builds up and not corruption.
5. Flattery is a trap; don't fall for it. Don't spread it either. Be truthful.
6. While the righteous in Christ sing, evil people get tripped up.
7. Discernment comes with righteousness, ignorance with sin.
8. This is a proverb for the present moment! O Father help us.
9. Choose wisdom, but don't debate a fool. It won't edify or help.

PRAY: What a precious gift these proverbs are! God is gracious in giving us these thought-provoking, timely sayings. Thank him, then ask the Father for wisdom and discernment in applying each one to your life. And as they apply, pray for our troubled nation as well.

Anticipating Change: pray for South Campus fruitfulness.

Wednesday, November 17

Read Proverbs 29:10-17

- THINK:** 10. The violent and hateful despise and attack holiness.
11. Wisely keep emotional thoughts inside. Speak judiciously.
12. Wow. Ponder this one and pray for our nation and leaders.
13. Standing before God, the oppressor and pauper are equals.
14. A blessed ruler treats the poor with equity and fairness.
15. Sound discipline is love (Heb.12:10-11) and imparts wisdom.
16. Wickedness may rise but ultimately the righteous will prevail.
17. In the end, sound discipline produces joy and rest. Amen.

PRAY: Today's sayings prompt us to pray for parents and their children, that the parents would lovingly and wisely discipline the children for their good, and also for those who govern, that they might be fair to all, just in their rulings, and wise with their words. Both of these things are badly needed today, are they not?

Anticipating Change: ask God to supply our financial needs over these next 21 months and for wisdom in preparations for change.

Thursday, November 18

Read Proverbs 29:18-27

THINK: Write your own brief comment in response to each proverb:

- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.

PRAY: Choose 3 or 4 of the proverbs that seem to most intersect with your life currently, and pray earnestly to God about them. Ask God for wisdom, grace, discernment, and the fulness of the Holy Spirit in your daily walk of faith. If a proverb brings others to mind, or our nation and world, intercede, asking God to work mightily.

Anticipating Change: Help us keep the main thing the main thing! May Jesus Christ be the center and circumference of all we do.

Friday, November 19

Read Proverbs 30:1-6

THINK: The pattern of individual proverbs of Solomon (or collected by him or for him) ends now with this poetic cry from Agur. He is weary, and many of us could say the same thing! Some sort of distress or pain has come into his life, and he feels stupid and without discernment in his weariness. He cries out of his need to know God -- and his Son! Then, breaking through the heartbreak, whatever it is, he declares that every word of God is true and that God is a shield for those who turn to him for refuge. Let us do the very same--take God's word to heart and find our refuge (in our weariness!) in him alone. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Hallelujah, Amen.

PRAY: Pray through the lines of Agur and turn them into prayer for your own weariness and need. Thank him for being your refuge in a time of trouble. Thank him for his Son, our Savior, the Lord Jesus!

Anticipating Change, pray for direction for our leadership in the major shifts expected in our ministry during these two years.

Weekend, November 20-21

Read Colossians 3:5-11

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: In this weekend and next weekend, the text will talk about *putting off* and *putting on* as if these items are clothes we wear. Write down here all the "clothing" items we are to *put off*, because they align with the old self, rather than the new. Your list should have about 12 items in it:

Next weekend we will see those items of "clothing" we are to put on, now that we are in Christ and are new in him. This new life is for all who believe, every kind of person! No one is excluded because of their ethnicity or social standing or anything else; the one requirement is that they have turned to Christ in faith, for Christ is all!

PRAY: Pray through your list of a dozen items to put off. Confess to the Father if you struggle with any of these sins. If another person in your sphere of influence comes to mind, intercede for them. Thank God for grace to put off the old and put on the new in Jesus Christ our Savior. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Pray for our pastors preaching on this important text of Scripture.

FAITH GROUP: Discuss why it is not legalism to require *putting off* the dozen items in this list that Christians are to get rid of. What is good news about putting off these things? What is freeing about it? Also talk about the amazing truth that Christ is for all types of people. No group is excluded! What does that imply?

Pray for our nation, where all these sins are rampant and enslaving to so many people. Pray for anyone you know caught up in these things, trapped in the prison of sin and in need of Jesus to set them free.