

# 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](http://faithsf.com). Enjoy your time in God's Word and Prayer!*

## Monday, November 22

Read Proverbs 30:7-14

**THINK:** Agur clearly is concerned about sin and rebellion toward God. "Two things I ask of you..." What are the 2 things? What dangers are found in the extremes (v.9)? What can you learn about yourself from pondering these possibilities? Slander (v.10) is never a good idea; slander is sin. What sins are of concern in these verses?

V.11 -

V.12 -

V.13 -

V.14 -

May God by grace and the Spirit grant us freedom from such sins as we walk by faith in the Son of God who gave himself for us.

**PRAY:** As Agur makes us aware of the variety of sins confronted here, may we respond with confession of sin where needed (our own or our nation's rebellion), and also supplication and intercession, that God would free us from such enslavement and give us great joy in walking with Jesus.

*Pray today for Pastor Jayson and the West Campus ministry.*

## Tuesday, November 23

Read Proverbs 30:15-23

**THINK:** Warren W. Wiersbe (WTW) summarizes this section thusly:  
(15-16) *Some things are never satisfied. Dissatisfaction creates many problems in our world.*

(18-19) *Some things must never lose their wonder. Life and love are not explained by laboratory experiments or the convenient formulas of the experts. As you go through life, do not lose your sense of wonder.*

(21-23) *Some things always seem to cause trouble.* For the last one, remind yourself of Genesis 16!

Also, v.17 - Honor your father and mother. The consequence of sin against them is dire. And v.20 - be on guard for the brazen adulterer who has no conscience.

**PRAY:** What are your gnawing dissatisfactions? Tell it to God! Express in a prayer of worship and adoration to God the wonders that are all around us: sunrise, sunset, a newborn child, the love of God in Christ Jesus! What wonder are you delighting in today? Ask God to protect you from besetting troubles. Have some? Tell him!

*Pray for the South Campus pastors, staff, and ministry.*

## Wednesday, November 24

Read Proverbs 30:24-33

**THINK:** Comment on the “wisdom” of each of these small animals:

Ants -

Rock badgers -

Locusts -

Lizards -

And once again, the “stately honor” of each of these: Lion, Rooster, He-goat, King. What do you think is Agur’s purpose in including these? Is it a good thing or a bad thing? It is a foolish thing to exalt yourself or devise evil. Stop! Repent. Otherwise, trouble will result.

**PRAY:** Ask God for wisdom! James 1:5 states that such a prayer is always a good idea. Also, ask God to keep you from pride, self-exaltation, and conniving. These always end poorly!

*Thank God for his great kindness in providing our church finances.*

## Thursday, November 25

Read Proverbs 31:1-9

**THINK:** A wise mother teaches her son, who is king! What does she advise? She warns against sinful relationships with women. (Does she have Solomon in mind, with his weakness for many wives and concubines, or Samson, who “gave his strength” to Delilah?) She warns against alcohol, for drunkenness can cause a ruler to “forget what has been decreed” and pervert justice for afflicted people. She calls upon the king to be an advocate for the poor and needy, and to rule with over the people with righteousness. Such wisdom is lacking today! Oh, for righteousness in government.

**PRAY:** In light of this passage, and also I Timothy 2:1-2, pray for those in government currently. Ask God to work powerfully in the lives of those who make laws and implement them, that they might seek to live and govern with righteousness and justice. Ask God to forgive us for the wickedness in our land and in our leaders and pray for revival in his church and spiritual awakening in the land. Ask God to raise up a generation of mothers who teach their children biblical wisdom and righteous living! Pray for mothers. *Ask God to help us maintain our focus on Christ, the gospel, and “things above.”*

## Friday, November 26

Read Proverbs 31:10-31

**THINK:** Excerpts from Dr. John Sailhamer: *“An ode to a virtuous woman...she is the embodiment of the wisdom portrayed throughout the book. The poem itself is an acrostic; each line begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Apart from Proverbs, the term “wife of noble character” is used only in the book of Ruth (Ruth 3:11, Boaz speaking of Ruth). In the Hebrew Bible, the book of Ruth follows Proverbs directly. As the ancestress of David, Ruth is treated as an historical example of the virtuous woman. [Note: Ruth will be our Advent sermon series beginning Sunday!] After reading this remarkable poem, what lines stand out to you? Think of a Proverbs 31 woman that God has kindly brought into your life.*

**PRAY:** Thank God for virtuous, Proverbs 31 women in your family and in our church family. Not only that, but pray for them, and then tell them that you appreciate them and what they stand for! What a blessing to know such women and benefit from their wisdom!

*Ask God to give our church direction in Anticipating Change!*

## Weekend, November 27-28

### Read Ruth 1

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:** Warren Wiersbe: *"It seems incredible that this beautiful love story could occur during the dark days of the judges, but such is the grace of God. We are living in trying days today; yet God is at work in His world, getting a bride for His Son and accomplishing His eternal purposes. Never permit the bad news of man's sin to rob you of the good news of God's love and grace."* We are introduced to the two main characters in this unfolding drama, Naomi (means "pleasant") and Ruth. How does Naomi come to embrace the name Mara (means "bitter")? Why is it crucial to note that Naomi is from Bethlehem (and returns there) while Ruth is from Moab?

**PRAY:** Pray for our pastors preaching this passage on the First Sunday of Advent, as our anticipation of the birth of the Messiah and Savior is kindled. Pray for those leading worship for these special Sundays. Have you struggled with bitter things in your life? Tell it to your Heavenly Father, and rest in his divine providence.

**FAITH GROUP:** Share a time in your life when you were tempted to embrace the name Mara (bitter). How did you see the hand of God work in your life at that time? Discuss the importance to the narrative of Scripture (Genesis to Revelation) that Naomi was from Bethlehem while Ruth was a Moabitess. What is the evidence in the text of the narrative that Ruth was a woman of faith and courage?