

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 8

Read Proverbs 27:1-8

- THINK:**
1. James 4:13-16 make a similar point. Trust God for today.
 2. Better not to brag or boast; humbly let others speak well of you.
 3. In our day of social media, many fools say way too much.
 4. The only righteous jealousy is God's jealousy for his glory. Human jealousy leads only to bitterness and strife and anger.
 - 5-6. It is helpful when a faithful friend speaks truth you need to hear; watch out for the flatterer who secretly seeks to harm you.
 7. In times of hardship, rejoice in any provision from our Father.
 8. Find joy in your home, for straying will lead to heartache.

PRAY: These proverbs are in scripture as God's gift to help us think through what it means to walk in wisdom in our daily life. Ask God to enable you to walk by the Spirit today, humbly trusting him and making wise choices. Ask God to help you take advantage of his gift of today. Ask God to enable you to guard your tongue, while at the same time refusing to give in to flattery. Ask the Father to help you welcome the truth and walk in righteousness. Thank God for daily bread, health and strength, and a home to live in. *Please use your Anticipating Change Prayer Guide to intercede for our church.*

Tuesday, November 9

Read Proverbs 27:9-16

THINK: 9. Among many gifts of God, wise counsel ranks at the top.
10. Friends are precious! We can lean on them in hardship.
11. Introduces a section of wise counsel for young men (“my son”).
12. The wise sniff out a trap and avoid it rather than plunging in.
13. Wise people don’t cosign loans for strangers or immoral people.
14. *ESV SB:* “Even in being sociable, one should be tactful.”
15-16. Any quarrelsome companion makes life difficult, but especially a spouse to whom you are pledged for life. Don’t go into marriage thinking you will change the person; better to choose wisely and carefully in the first place.

PRAY: Pray through each proverb, pondering the wisdom of it and turning to God for help by his Spirit in applying it to your day.

Please use your Anticipating Change Prayer Guide to intercede for our church.

Wednesday, November 10

Read Proverbs 27:17-27

THINK: 17. A godly, righteous friend who loves Jesus is more precious than gold. Do you have a friend who “sharpens” you?
18. Fulfill your assignment and the result will be to your benefit.
19. If others could see inside of you, what would they observe? What does God observe deep inside of you?
20. Greed and covetousness always crave MORE MORE MORE.
21. Does praise from others foster pride? Or humility and joy?
22. Even crushing disappointment does not correct foolish people.
23-27. This section is a call to wise stewardship. It calls to mind Jesus’ parable in Luke 12:16-21. Reversals come; are you prepared? Have you been a wise and faithful steward of all that belongs to our Heavenly Father?

PRAY: Do you have a godly, faithful friend? Pray for that friend or ask the Father to give you one. Express to God your desire to be a faithful steward. Ask God to help you be content and consistent in walking by faith, choosing humility over pride, faithfulness over fame.

Thursday, November 11

Read Proverbs 28:1-9

THINK: Now write your own brief, pithy response to each proverb.

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

PRAY: Pray through these personal responses to the proverbs, line by line, asking God to lead you into greater wisdom and faithfulness.

Please use your Anticipating Change Prayer Guide to intercede for our church. Ask our Father to make the next 21 months fruitful.

Friday, November 12

Read Proverbs 28:10-18

THINK: Continue by writing a brief, pithy response to each one:

- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.

PRAY: Pray through these personal responses to the proverbs, line by line, asking God to lead you into greater wisdom and faithfulness.

Please use your Anticipating Change Prayer Guide to intercede for our church. Ask our Father to make the next 21 months a very fruitful, blessed time in the life of our church, both West and South.

Weekend, November 13-14

Read Colossians 3:1-4

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: Chapter 3 opens with a classic "if/then" statement: if A is true, then B. "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is..." What are "the things" we are to seek if we are in Christ Jesus and our resurrection in Christ is secure? What might "things above" be? In what sense have believers died in Christ? What does the "hidden" life imply for your day tomorrow?

Do you think the cliché is true or false, that some Christians are "so heavenly minded they are of no earthly good"? Or do you think heavenly minded believers are of enormous earthly good?

PRAY: Pray for wisdom for our pastors preaching on this classic text of God's word. Ask God to help us all live our daily lives with a kingdom focus, with Christ as the center. Tell God about your week ahead and ask for grace and the fulness of the Holy Spirit to make an impact for Christ. *Pray for our church in these days Anticipating Change!*

FAITH GROUP: Talk as a group about what "things above" might be. Be practical. When you get up on Monday and face the week ahead, what might some of "things above" be for you this coming week? Discuss the challenge of living the "hidden" life in Christ during the hectic pace of a busy week with lots of distractions. What helps you keep your life in Christ as the main focus, while still functioning this side of eternity? What does it mean to be a "kingdom-focused, Christ-focused" child of God in your present circumstances?

Pray for one another about this kingdom way of life.