

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

## Monday, February 27

Read Psalm 1

**THINK:** What does the blessed Christian choose NOT to do? What does the blessed Christian choose to DO? What word picture does the psalmist use to describe this blessed life? What contrast is being drawn? What is the warning we must take to heart from this Psalm? What encouragement? Write a brief response to the Psalm here:

**PRAY:** Pray through the Psalm thought by thought, asking God to make you a thriving tree in the journey of life. Tell him that you want no part in wickedness. Pray for others in your sphere of influence who are choosing wickedness and rebellion against the Lord and his word. Ask God to move mightily by his Spirit in their lives, taking out their heart of stone and giving them a new heart. *Pray for our West Campus ministry. Ask God to provide for all their needs.*

## Tuesday, February 28

Read Psalm 2

**THINK:** Verse 1 is a question. How appropriate for current events! 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. *Pray for the South Pastoral Search Team.*

## Wednesday, March 1

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 our FBF children and youth!*

## Thursday, March 2

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! *Pray for our city.*

## Friday, March 3

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 who 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 King! *Ask God to bring the lost to himself through our witness.*

## Weekend, March 4-5

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

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 great LOVE chapter! Often read at weddings, consider this question: what is the context in Paul's letter for this love chapter? To whom is it addressed? Why?

We are called by Jesus himself to love one another in John 13: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**: just as I have **loved** you, you also are to **love one another**. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love for one another**."*

Perhaps Paul was reflecting on these words from Jesus when he composed this remarkable, poetic call to love in the context of his instructions concerning the church, the body of Christ. Ask yourself this question, "do I truly love the body of Christ?"

**PRAY:** Pray through verses 4-6, asking God to help you grow in loving others. Ask God to help you give up childish ways of thinking when it comes to love, but to love with Christ-like grace to those around you and to the church family.

Pray for our pastors preaching on this grand chapter. "God, help us to be a church that truly loves one another just as Christ has loved us!"

**FAITH GROUP:** What are some of the challenges that make it difficult to love one another in the context of local church life? Can you share with the group a personal experience of seeing the love of Christ displayed in a local church?

**How can we grow in being a loving body of believers at Faith?**