

# Orwell Bible Church Daily Devotional, January 26–February 1, 2026

*Glorifying God by radiantly reflecting his infinite perfections through right worship and living.*

## Hymn of the Week: Try Us, O God, and Search the Ground

Try us, O God, and search the ground  
Of every sinful heart;  
Whate'er of sin in us is found,  
O bid it all depart!

Help us to help each other, Lord,  
Each other's cross to bear;  
Let each his friendly aid afford,  
And feel his brother's care.

Up unto Thee, our living Head,  
Let us in all things grow,  
Till Thou hast made us free indeed,  
And spotless here below.

When to the right or left we stray,  
Leave us not comfortless;  
But guide our feet into the way  
Of everlasting peace.

Help us to build each other up,  
Our little church improve;  
Increase our faith, confirm our hope,  
And perfect us in love.

Then, when the mighty work is wrought,  
Receive Thy ready bride:  
Give us in heaven a happy lot  
With all the sanctified.

Scan this QR code for the tune  
(O God Our Help in Ages Past):



Scripture truth to memorize for ministry: “As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’” **1 Peter 1:15–16**

## Monday, January 26

**Genesis 26**—*Isaac moves to Gerar; God twice reaffirms the Abrahamic Covenant with Isaac. Isaac lies to Abimelech about his wife Rebekah, but Abimelech discovers their marriage and restores her. Isaac moves to Beersheba and makes a covenant with Abimelech.*

- ☞ God commanded Isaac to stay in the land and promised him descendants; how would Isaac apply these truths during a famine? How did God provide for his needs?
- ☞ How did God fulfill His promises to Isaac? How did Isaac respond to the Lord's promises?
- ☞ Why were Esau's marriages outside of God's declared will?

**Matthew 26**—*The events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion.*

- ☞ As you read this chapter, notice how often Jesus references Scripture. How important was that to him? If that was so, how important should it be to *you*?
- ☞ As you read verses 26–30, note the character of the Lord's Supper.
- ☞ What can you learn about prayer from verses 36–44?

**OBC member to pray for:** Linda Turner

**Tom & Stephanie Boehm (Italy):** Pray for Tom as he teaches in their new Bible institute.

## Tuesday, January 27

**Genesis 27**—*Jacob deceives Isaac and receives the blessing meant for Esau. Esau plots to murder Jacob.*

- ☞ Note the reason “Jacob” gave his father how he “bagged” his game so quickly (v. 20). What do you think of this?
- ☞ God *did* promise, before they were born, that Esau would serve Jacob (25:23). Does this justify Rebekah and Jacob's actions? How should we understand their actions in light of God's sovereign plan and purpose?

**Matthew 27**—*Jesus is condemned, crucified, and buried.*

- ☞ Did Judas's final action (v. 5) help him deal with his sin?
- ☞ Compare verse 25 with the Jews' statement a little later in Acts 5:28!
- ☞ Jesus' cry in verse 46 did not mean that he as the Son was separated from the Father (God exists *eternally* as one God in three persons). Jesus' cry was that of genuine anguish and feeling of desolation, his expression of being judged by God.

**OBC member to pray for:** Jim Wiser

**Tom & Stephanie Boehm (Italy):** Pray for students to understand and apply the material as they learn in the Bible institute.

## Wednesday, January 28

**Genesis 28**—*Isaac sends Jacob off with the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant. Esau defiantly marries an Ishmaelite. God appears to Jacob in a dream and reaffirms the Abrahamic covenant blessings, and Jacob calls that place “Bethel.”*

- ☞ How did Jacob and Esau differ in their relationship with and actions toward their parents?
- ☞ What did Jacob do to deserve the God's blessings described in verses 13–15?
- ☞ What blessings did God promise Jacob? Do they differ from what He promised Abraham?

**Matthew 28**—*Jesus' resurrection from the dead and command to make disciples.*

- ☞ Did Jesus refuse the disciples' worship (vv. 9, 17)? What are the implications of this?
- ☞ What are essential aspects of Jesus' commands to us (vv. 19–20)? What is his promise? What are you doing then?

**OBC member to pray for:** Linda Wisner

**Tom & Stephanie Boehm (Italy):** Praise the Lord that Lucio joined the church, and Danilo wants to be baptized this spring or summer!

### Thursday, January 29

**Genesis 29**—*Jacob journeys to Laban's home; he marries Leah and Rachel. Leah bears four sons but Rachel is barren.*

- ☞ Note verse 20—what can you learn about love from this?
- ☞ What can you learn about the difficulties of polygamy this early in Jacob's marriages with Leah and Rebekah?
- ☞ What can you learn from verse 31 about children?

**Mark 1**—*Jesus' ministry begins in Galilee.*

- ☞ "Immediately" is a key word in Mark's account of Jesus' life and ministry. Note how many times it occurs here in chapter 1!
- ☞ What are the two necessary responses to the gospel (v. 15)?
- ☞ What kind of responses were there to Jesus' ministry (vv. 28, 33, 37)? Why didn't Jesus stay there (v. 38)? What was Jesus controlled by? What wasn't he controlled by?

**OBC member to pray for:** Donna Burlinski

**Tom & Stephanie Boehm (Italy):** Praise the Lord the Boehm's son Angelo was able to join a basketball team; pray for contacts as a result of this.

### Friday, January 30

**Genesis 30**—*Rachael and Leah and their handmaidens bear sons and Leah has a daughter. Jacob experiences great material prosperity and blessing.*

- ☞ The practice we read about here sounds strange to us but was common then. What did it do, though, to the family?
- ☞ How do you see God fulfilling His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in this chapter?
- ☞ Jacob's actions in verses 37–42 were not superstition like the mandrakes were in verse 14. Rather, he practiced selective breeding and utilized medicinal stimulants. Note 31:9, however—while Jacob used means he gave the "credit" to God.

**Mark 2**—*As Jesus heals and teaches, the religious leaders begin to oppose him.*

- ☞ What is essential for sins to be forgiven (v. 5)?
- ☞ "Son of Man" (v. 10) is a description of the Messiah from Daniel 7:13-14.
- ☞ Verses 15-17 are often used as justification for Christians' going to bars and such. Where was Jesus though (vv. 14-15)? How should we labor for the salvation of the lost?

**OBC member to pray for:** Jon Engdahl

**Tom & Stephanie Boehm (Italy):** Pray for the Boehm's daughter Daniela, who needs to have a tooth pulled in February. Pray that the sideways-growing tooth above it comes down into place.

### Saturday, January 31

**Genesis 31**—*Jacob leaves but Laban pursues and confronts him. Jacob and Laban make a covenant.*

- ☞ Note Jacob's perspective in vv. 5, 7, 42—how has he grown in his faith?
- ☞ How was God's message to Laban consistent with His covenant promises to Jacob?
- ☞ "Mizpah" (v. 49) means "the watchtower." Laban's words in this verse are often used as a blessing, but from the context is that what Laban intended?

**Mark 3**—*Jesus heals on the Sabbath and is denounced by the religious leaders.*

- ☞ The Pharisees and Herodians were normally enemies. What brought them together (v. 6)?
- ☞ From the context (vv. 22-30, esp. v. 30) what is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?
- ☞ What is the *evidence* of genuine faith in Christ (v. 35)?

**OBC member to pray for:** Jan Engdahl

**Tom & Stephanie Boehm (Italy):** pray for the people of Deruta to come to faith in Christ (including: Alberto and Chiara, Diego, Simone, Giorgia, Giulia, Piera, Liliana, Mario, Marco, Monaldo, Matteo and Sandra, and Sonia

### The Lord's Day, February 1

**Genesis 32**—*Jacob prepares to meet Esau and wrestles with God at Peniel.*

- ☞ Study Jacob's prayer to the Lord in vv. 9–12. What can you learn about praying from this?
- ☞ Who did Jacob wrestle with?
- ☞ Jacob's name is changed to "Israel" which either means "strive with God" or "God fights."

**Mark 4**—*Jesus teaches in parables and stills the sea.*

- ☞ Which soil are you (vv. 3-20)? How do you know?
- ☞ Who understood parables (vv. 10-12, 33-34)? Why?
- ☞ How should faith affect your daily life (vv. 35-41)? What fact should have controlled the disciples' emotions in the storm (cp. what Jesus said in v. 35 with the disciples' interpretation of events in v. 38)?

**OBC member to pray for:** Pastor Greenfield

**Tom & Stephanie Boehm (Italy):** Pray for the spiritual needs of the Boehm's children.