

JANUARY 1, 2016
NEW YEAR'S EVE,
NEW YEAR'S DAY

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Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect upon these Bible passages as part of your New Year's celebrations.

Thursday	Psalm 90	From everlasting to everlasting
	2 Peter 3:8-14	What kind of people?
	Luke 9:57-62	Following Jesus
Friday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-14	A time for everything
	James 4:13-15	If it is the Lord's will
	Luke 12:22-31	Do not worry

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I know the best thing we can do is to always enjoy life, because God's gift to us is the happiness we get from our food and drink and from the work we do. **Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the New Year:

God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, thank you for a new year of blessings, opportunities, and challenges. Help us to live this year with faith in our hearts and praises on our lips. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, all that is good comes from you! Thanks be to you the whole year through. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you this coming year, and bless you with a wise heart. Amen.



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CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Looking back on 2015, what will you remember most?
- In what ways has God blessed or shaped you this past year?
- What are some of your hopes or goals for the next year?

DEVOTIONS



Use this liturgy on New Year's Day. Provide glasses for all gathered to share in a toast. Light a candle to signify the presence of Christ.

Leader: We gather to thank God for the past year. We put it behind us with all of its blessings and hard times. We also look forward to the year to come. Let us remember that God is with us and will take care of us.

Scripture: Read Psalm 121.

Sharing: Share your hopes for the new year.

All: Lord God, our protection and strength, we thank you for bringing us through this past year with all its joys and sorrows. Please go with us as we step into the new year. Bless our hopes, calm our fears, and wipe away our tears. Help us to live each day for you. Amen.

SERVICE



Make a list of people you would like to thank for their contributions to your lives as individuals or as a family over the last year. Prepare cards or letters to send to them, saying "thank you" for their service to you.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Collect candles and a box of matches. On New Year's Eve ask each person to recall events from 2015 for which they are thankful. Light a candle for each thanksgiving that is mentioned. Read Psalm 136:1-16 and 23-26. Say together the refrain, "**God's love never fails.**"



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org