

DECEMBER 31, 2016  
NEW YEAR'S EVE,  
NEW YEAR'S DAY



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

### NEW YEAR'S BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 90</b>	<b>From everlasting to everlasting</b>
	<b>Revelation 21:1-6a</b>	<b>Alpha and omega</b>
	<b>Luke 12:22-31</b>	<b>Do not worry</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Psalm 8</b>	<b>Divine Splendor</b>
	<b>Ecclesiastes 3:1-14</b>	<b>A time for everything</b>
	<b>Luke 9:57-62</b>	<b>Following Jesus</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE NEW YEAR

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)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **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.



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### A HYMN FOR THE NEW YEAR

*For the Fruit of  
All Creation*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

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

### DEVOTIONS



Gather on New Year' Eve or Day to give thanks for the past year and to ask for God's blessing upon the year to come. Provide glasses for all gathered to share in a toast. Light a candle to signify the presence of Christ. Use the following words of Scripture and prayer:

*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.*

*Read: Psalm 121.*

*Share: Discuss 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 life over the last year. Prepare cards, letters, or emails 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 the past year for which they are thankful. Light a candle for each thanksgiving that is mentioned. Read Psalm 136.

Then 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](http://www.milestonesministry.org)