

DAILY READING PLAN

Week of January 1, 2022

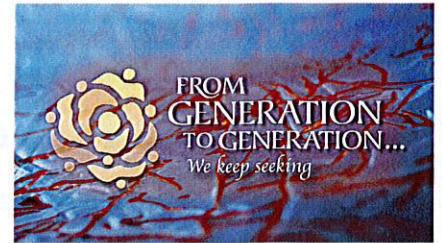
From Generation to Generation:

We Keep Seeking

Matthew 2:1-12



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Day #1 - Read Revelation 21:5 | Behold, God Makes All Things New

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

As you look with hope into the new year, what are your hesitations? What are your hopes?

Read and meditate on these passages: Romans 6:3-4, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, and Lamentations 3:22-23. What are common themes you see in these verses? What encouragement do you receive from these passages?

Day #2 - Read Jeremiah 29:11 | Seeking Focus for a New Year

"I know the plans I have for you," announces the LORD. "I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come."

If you were to sum up your hopes and dreams, some aspirations and expectations for the new year, what would that one word be? Can you distill all of that into one word? Think about what you want to accomplish, what you might want to change, stop, or start in the weeks and months ahead. Can you focus all of that down to one word? If so, write that word on a small piece of paper and put it where you will see it often. Remember, God is the one doing the new thing in and through you.

Day #3 - Read Matthew 2:10-11 | Seeking Jesus the Child

When [the Wise Men] saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage."

The Magi were priests and astrologers from Persia on a life quest. They were seeking something new, something different. What they found was so life-altering that nothing was ever the same. What is it about the Child, Jesus that draws you closer? How do you anticipate the Jesus, the child, impacting your days this week?

Day #4 - Read Matthew 2:5-6 | Seeking Jesus the Shepherd

"In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

We all could use a little guidance in our lives. A shepherd is one who leads, guides and even protects. How and where in your life do you need leadership, guidance, and even protection?

Day #5 - Read Matthew 2:1-12 | Seeking Jesus the Messiah

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road."

Jesus is the Messiah. He is the one who saves, rescues, renews and restores us. Our lives can be a response to Jesus's messiahship in us. Think about Jesus' actions of saving, rescuing, renewing and restoring in your life. How will you open yourself up to that this week?

FIVE MOVEMENTS THAT WILL HELP YOU ARRIVE AT YOUR ONE WORD

Adapted from: <https://mountainmodernlife.com/word-of-the-year/>

This isn't about crossing another goal off your list. It's about creating a mantra to help guide your daily actions and become a better version of yourself. It's about giving your soul what it needs. Here are a few easy steps to help guide you in choosing your 2023 word of the year.

STEP 1: REFLECT

Set aside some time to reflect on the year that was 2022. As you do that, ask yourself these questions. Write down whatever comes into your mind without self-editing.

- What could I use more or less of in my life?
- What characteristics would I like to have?
- By the end of the day, I feel (fill in the blank).
- How do I want to feel?

As you reflect on your responses, you'll have a better sense of the direction you'd like to go, or what you feel may be lacking in your life.

STEP 2: VISUALIZE

Visualize what the perfect day would feel like, the emphasis here is "Feel." Think about how you want your morning routine to feel, how you want to feel at work or throughout the day, and how you want to feel right before you go to bed. It may help to focus specifically on the question "What word do I want to focus on in 2023?"

STEP 3: CREATE A LIST

Spend 10 minutes creating a list of the words that come to mind. This is a brain-storming session, so no self-editing!

STEP 4: REVIEW & REFINE

Review your list and narrow down your favorites. Circle or highlight three words.

As you review your list, you may notice a theme emerging from the words you wrote down. Do any of the words stand out? Do any of your words make you feel excited, nervous, scared, uncomfortable, or at ease? Sometimes the words that scare us most can mean we're on the right track because change isn't always easy. At the same time, finding your word can also bring peace and empowerment. Think about the words, try them on, and see what feels right. No need to over-analyze this process, trust your gut instead. Gently review your list and let the words pick you.

STEP 5: ASK YOURSELF THIS VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION

Now that you narrowed down your list to three words, there's just one more question to ask:

Are you interested, or are you committed? If you're merely "interested" then chances are you'll make excuses as to why you're not putting forth the effort to actually make changes. But if you're "Committed" to your word, you'll do whatever it takes to implement that word and bring more of it into your life. If necessary, allow yourself a day or two, even a week to really think about this.

WHAT'S YOUR 2023 WORD OF THE YEAR?

Which word can you say you're 100% committed to? Choose that one!
