



2024 ~ GETTING STARTED IN THE NEW YEAR



What are you called to achieve for the Lord?

IT'S A COMPELLING YET POTENTIALLY MISLEADING QUESTION. Our modern way of life prioritizes *doing*, but the heart of Christian living is found in *being*. Being *with God*, regardless of what we accomplish. Abiding in Him.

Take a moment to prepare.

Spending quiet time with God is more effective when we're intentional about it. With that in mind, use the following exercise to help you get started.

1. **Sit quietly.** Take a deep breath, eyes closed or open, and ask the Lord to meet you now.
2. **Meditate on God's Word.** Take 1-3 minutes to meditate on the following verses.

The God who made the world and everything that is in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made by hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He himself gives to all people life and breath and all things. Acts 17:25

Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

TIP: Try reading these verses aloud and then silently reflect on each one for 15-30 seconds. Feel free to repeat the exercise until you're ready to move on.

3. **Pray.** You can use your own words or the prayer provided below.

Lord, I welcome You into this moment. Please help me to accept that what You most want from me is not what I can do in Your name—You simply want *ME*. Please set me free from the need to perform well or look good in the eyes of others. Let this year of reading and praying be an opportunity to receive the abundant life You promised. Amen

As you begin, remember:

God doesn't need anything, but He still loves and desires a relationship with us. The primary purpose of spending time in His Word is deeper communion with Him, and to be transformed by His love.

~ Copied

I love being your pastor,
Love, Chris
#God'sNotDone



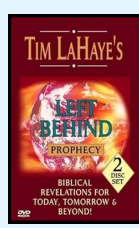
MISSION PROJECTS AT EBC

Can you believe it!? A new year is upon us and Missions are more important than ever at EBC! Our JANUARY emphasis for ABCCM is on easy-to-open and easy-to-prepare foods such as instant mashed potatoes, soup, instant oats, Vienna sausage, peanut butter, etc. Their pantry empties very quickly so all donations are needed and are very much appreciated.

ASHEVILLE BUNCOMBE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY (ABCCM) is one of the key non-profit organizations in Buncombe County, and is generously supported by over 289 churches of all denominations and **we are one of those!**

It is such a blessing knowing we can always count on you...and because of your generosity and heart for missions, our **Lottie Moon Mission Offering contributions, as of December 24**, total **\$2,132** surpassing our **goal of \$2,002**. A huge **thank you** to all who donated to this very worthwhile mission offering.

SMALL GROUPS AT EBC



ADULT CO-ED SMALL GROUP
Beginning in January 2024, we will transition from celebrating Jesus' first Advent to looking forward to His return. We will study Tim LaHaye's *Left Behind Prophecy, Biblical Revelations for Today, Tomorrow & Beyond*.

If you have questions about what "is to come" and end times, join us for this insightful study **beginning January 14 on 2nd Sunday Celebration day at 9:30 a.m.** in the Church Fellowship Hall. **Come for breakfast, stay for class!!** All are welcome.

ATTENTION MEN! DAILY WITNESS, a men's small group, is just right for you!

This quarter we will study God's design for all He has created and His plans for His people. The old saying warns us that those who ignore the past are destined to repeat its mistakes. In **Genesis 1-19**, we are given a front-row seat to where everything began—and how it all fell apart. Even more important, we see how a loving God moved to restore the shattered pieces by pointing His people toward a future hope. Our world is just as broken today as it was back then, which means the message of Genesis is just as vital today as it was then.

What better way to start the new year than to study the first book of God's Word, Genesis! **Join us Sundays at 9:45 a.m.** and be blessed. You might just learn something too. *Our classroom is located next to the Sanctuary.*

THIS PRAYER FROM BILLY GRAHAM, WRITTEN FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST IN 2008, IS JUST AS

RELEVANT AS WE LOOK TOWARD 2024.



Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: *"Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end"* (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord"* (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come. Amen.

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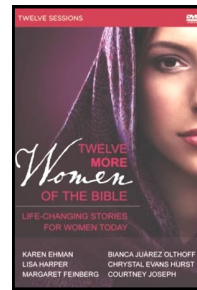
"Hurry! Our New Year's resolutions start in ten minutes."

TUESDAY MORNINGS AT EBC

Join us at 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday morning for Bible Study: *"Twelve More Women of the Bible—Life Changing Stories for Women Today."*

Join us for special insight into the life and character of each woman and see how we can apply biblical lessons to our own modern-day struggles.

Prayer Meeting follows at 11:30 a.m.



YOUTH NEWS AT EBC (GRADES 7-12)


Our Enka Baptist Youth are absolutely amazing!

It's exciting to see them invite and bring their friends to church and to other youth activities. In addition, Kiya and Rebekah are assistant teachers in the Children's Small Group on Sunday mornings, and they both very faithfully serve our church by working tirelessly in our Nursery Department. **So, in December we celebrated our wonderful young people**, starting with a campus walk-through of Lake Julian's Christmas Lights and ending with a New Year's Lock-In. Being together, enriching friendships and celebrating our Savior's birth was a great experience for all. We thank you for your continued prayers for this great group of young people as they grow in the Lord.

As always, anyone grades 7-12 are invited and welcome to join us on Sunday nights at 6 p.m.

January 2024 at EBC

Small Group classes meet every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)

JAN 07	6:00 p.m. Quarterly Business Meeting Youth / CIA
JAN 09	10:30 a.m. Group Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting
JAN 14	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. Choir Practice 6:00 p.m. Bible Study with the Pastor Youth / CIA
JAN 16	10:30 a.m. Group Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting
JAN 21 ABCCM Sunday	5:00 p.m. Choir Practice 6:00 p.m. Family Night 7:00 p.m. Adults on Mission Youth / CIA
JAN 23	10:30 a.m. Group Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting
JAN 27	8:00 a.m.  Men's Breakfast
JAN 28	5:00 p.m. Choir Practice 6:00 p.m. Bible Study with the Pastor Youth / CIA 7:00 p.m. Church Council

MUSIC AT EBC



The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior! ⁴⁹Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name. ~ Psalm 18:46,49

Attention all you singers out there...the EBC Worship Choir is beginning work on the Easter Cantata. Yes...Easter is just around the corner! If you would like to help us make a joyful noise, please see our Music Minister, Teresa Boyer, after worship on Sunday or call Mary at 828-667-2410 and leave a message. We look forward to praising God with you!