



NEWSLETTER

New Year's Resolutions for Home Life

The beginning of a new year is upon us. For many people, the new year represents a new beginning and the opportunity to make new resolutions for life. In this month's newsletter, I'd like to suggest that we make some resolutions in the area of home life. Here are some resolutions we'd ask you to prayerfully consider incorporating into your family.



It's also important that we pray consistently. The apostle Paul urged "that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people" (1 Timothy 2:1). One of the best times to do this is right after reading the Bible. Among other requests, we can ask the Lord to help us apply what we have just read to our lives.

Having a set time to read the Bible and pray is crucial. This is because,

personal devotions usually don't get done unless we have a plan and a set time that we are determined to do them. The time of day that you do a devotion is not commanded in Scripture, so you're free to do it whenever is best for you. However, there is something good about doing it in the morning before the rest of your day gets started. Spending fifteen to thirty minutes (or more) in the morning before your work begins communicates to God that He and His Word are the most important parts of your life.

1. **Personal Devotions**

The first resolution is that we maintain regular times devoted to Bible reading and prayer (or "personal devotions"). Why is this so important? Paul says that we are not to be "conformed to the image of this world, but transformed by the renewing of our minds" (Romans 12:2). The way to renew our minds is to fill them with the Word of God, and one of the only ways to do that is to read the Bible. The Scriptures, Paul says, "are inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). One of the best ways to make sure that we are taking in the Bible on a regular basis is by having a Bible-reading plan. Our church has handouts that you can put in the front cover of your Bible that consist of a reading for every day of the year.

2. **Family Devotions**

Family devotions can be just as important as personal devotions for the spiritual wellbeing of our homes. Scripture is clear that parents are



responsible for instructing their children in the ways of the Lord. Listen to Deuteronomy 6:6-7:

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Listen also to these words from the apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:4:

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

This verse tells us that it is specifically the “fathers” who are the ones responsible for making sure their children know the things of God.

So, the question is, parents (and especially dads), besides bringing your family to church regularly, how are you going to lead your children into a knowledge of Scripture and how are you going to teach them to walk with the Lord? One way to do this is by having family devotions. Just as personal devotions (including Bible reading and prayer) can help you grow spiritually as an individual, in the same way family devotions can help you grow spiritually as a family. Having three or four times a week when you gather together as a family and read the Scriptures and pray can go a long way in helping you “bring your children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” In a moment, I’ll suggest some resources to help you.

3. Husband and Wife Time

Yet another resolution worth making that will strengthen your family in 2011 is having what I call



“husband and wife time.” This is not a novel idea, it just consists in spending time, alone, as a husband and wife. It seems simple, but when you have children, and a busy life, time alone with your spouse can be easily neglected. One way to make sure you are spending quality time with your

spouse is by simply sitting on the couch together (maybe after dinner) and talking—not watching television, not talking to the kids, but talking with each other. Another way of maintaining a consistent “husband and wife time” is by having a regular “date night.”

Again, this isn’t a novel idea. It simply consists in going on a date with your wife. Who said you had to stop dating once you got married? Dating probably strengthened your relationship with your spouse before you got married, and dating can continue to strengthen your relationship even if you’ve been married for decades. And dating doesn’t have to be expensive, either. It can be something as simple as eating popcorn and watching a rented movie together after the kids go to sleep. Regardless of how sophisticated your plan is for your date, what’s important is the time you’ll get to spend together.

So, here are some resolutions worth considering for 2011. By God’s grace, may we grow as Christian individuals, as Christian families, and as Christian couples, all for the glory of God, that His name might be exalted in our lives over the course of this new year!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Grant

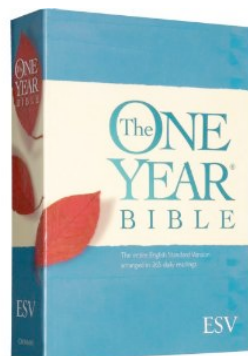


Resources for Personal and Family Devotions

Maybe you're thinking to yourself, "These resolutions sound good, but are there some resources out there that can help me?" The answer is "yes." Here are some resources that can help you particularly in the areas of personal and family devotions. If you are interested in any of the items mentioned here, you may place an order for them through the church. Just let the pastor know which ones you're interested in.

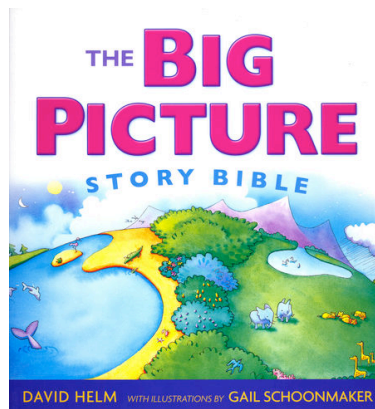
1. One Year Bible

Besides the Bible reading plans mentioned above, another very helpful resource for Bible reading is a One Year Bible. The reason these are so helpful is that they are already divided up into 365 daily readings. Each day you read a little of the Old Testament, a little of the New Testament, and a little of Psalms and Proverbs. Within the course of a year you will have read the entire Bible.



2. The Big Picture Story Bible (for kids)

This is the Bible that I (pastor Grant) use with our two year old daughter. It breaks up the entire message of the Bible into easy to understand stories that are wonderfully illustrated. This is a great tool to use with kids from age one to around three or four.



3. Long Story Short: Ten Minute Devotions to draw your family to God

This is a great Bible study tool to use with kids from ages four and up (after they've "graduated" from the Big Picture Story Bible). As the subtitle says, it contains ten-minute devotions that you can do with your entire family. It takes very little time to prepare, since the devotions are already written out for you.

Upcoming Events

January 5

Business meeting at 7:00 pm.

January 16

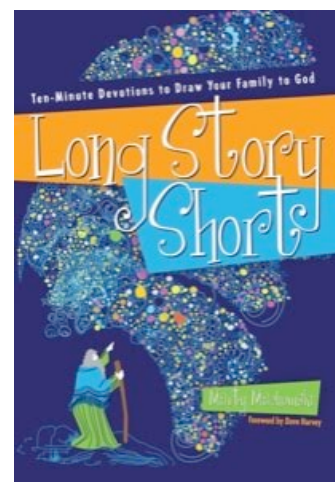
We're having a soup and sandwich lunch on this Sunday after the morning worship service. Volunteers are still needed for making sandwiches. See Rosemary Jessup for details.

January 22

The youth group is taking a snow-tubing trip to Perfect North Slopes in Lawrenceburg on this Saturday. See Pastor Josh for details on time and cost.

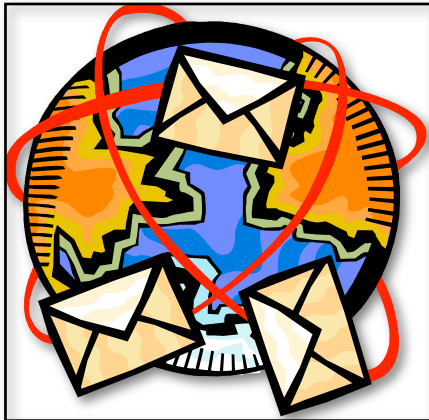
January 30

Doughnut fellowship at 9:15 am, before Sunday school.





PEOPLE WHO'D LOVE TO RECEIVE MAIL



Josh McClure

455 RC Ct
Madison, IN 47250

Josh McClure is our new youth pastor. Let's show him that we are thankful for him and are

praying for his ministry to us at BFBC.

Janet Darnold

9221 E Tate Ridge Rd
Madison, IN 47250

Mrs. Janet had a stroke a couple of weeks ago and is recovering in Swiss Villa nursing home. Let's remind her that her church family loves her and has her in our prayers.

If you have names you'd like to add, please call the church at 839-3430 (leave a message if no answer).

Areas of Service

Deacon of the Month

John Higgins (839-4905)

Church Cleaning

Lea Ann and Vicky

Nursery Workers

January 2 — Ingrid Peters

January 9 — Volunteer Welcome

January 16 — Melisa Gaines

January 23 — Rosemary Jessup

January 30 — Volunteer Welcome

Nursing Home Visitation

January 23 — meet at the church at 1:45pm.