

## BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”  
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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**Georgia Webb**  
Missionary  
to Mexico



Please Contact Her at  
ga1948wf@prodigy.net.mx



Handout: 12/23/18

## Preparing For Your Best Year Ever

**1. Remember** - The wise man of Ecclesiastes said, “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’” (Eccl. 12:1). In January, the year is young and the opportunities seem fresh. So many productivity gurus preach a gospel of self-empowerment, but as gospel people, we know the fragility of human life. We know every breath is a miracle, a gift given to us by our Creator. In a cursed and tumultuous world, creation itself reminds of God’s great faithfulness. Every new season is a testimony, a signpost, to grace. So the proper response to the past year, whether good or bad, is not “I made it through” or “Look what I achieved.” It is “Thank you, Lord.”

**2. Repent** - Our worship of God for his faithfulness and majesty, evidenced by the changing of seasons, should then lead us to repentance. His goodness breaks us in fresh ways as our sin is exposed by the light of his glory. But this isn’t a morbidly introspective, navel-gazing exercise. To repent is to rejoice. We claim the promise of 1 John 1:9 because we know our forgiveness has already been purchased at the cross.

Beginning the new year with repentance is to draw closer to Jesus, to appropriate the fresh grace that is ours in him. This is why confession always brings relief and joy. It is the gateway to greater intimacy with God. How can we begin new plans and journeys in 2019 without first allowing his light to penetrate the darkness of our hearts and to reveal areas in need of growth? How can we start hustling and working and dreaming without first renewing our joy in the One who directs our steps?

**3. Renew** – New Year’s should also be a time of renewing old commitments, like marriage, family, and church. Our most vital work is what we do within the walls of our homes—loving our spouses and raising our children in an atmosphere of godliness and grace. We live out the gospel best when we live it out in the daily rhythms of repentance and forgiveness with loved ones. We must reject the lie that says success requires abandoning family commitments.

We should also renew ourselves to the faithful body life of our local Bible-treasuring, gospel-preaching church. The local church is the locus of God’s mission in the world, where we gather in community to declare Christ’s kingship each week, and where we work out our salvation in fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12) with brothers and sisters in Christ.,

**4. Rest** - New Year’s should be a time to rest. First, we rest in the reality of our identity in Christ. We may have failed to meet our heady goals last year. Jesus still loves us, despite our failures, unchecked boxes, and disappointment at the scale. The gospel tells us that he loves us in the midst of these.

Source: Excerpt from “4 Ways to Approach the New Year with Jesus” by Daniel Darling

## KEY VERSE

Jeremiah 29:11

*"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." NKJV*

## WEEKLY READINGS

### Monday: Jeremiah 29:11-14

#### Introduction

1. What are you hoping for in 2019?
2. Of the four areas ways to approach 2019 on the front of the Growth Guide, which is the most impactful to your life?

### Tuesday: Matthew 6:9-13

#### Pray Daily

3. How would you describe your prayer life?
4. Below are some keys to having a powerful prayer life. Are any of these areas lacking in your prayer life?

Praise and thanksgiving ~ Psalm 150:2

Repent of sin ~ I John 1:9

Ask God to meet your needs and the needs of others ~ Matthew 7:7

Yield to the will of God ~ Romans 6:13

### Wednesday: Joshua 1:8

#### Study God's Word Daily

5. What are some blessings that reading God's Word has brought to your life?
6. Remembering God's Word keeps us from sin (Psalm 119:11). How do you hold God's Word dear to your heart?

### Thursday: Hebrews 10:22-25

#### Grow With Other Christians

7. Do you feel connected to your church family? Why or why not?
8. What are some steps you can take to deepen your connection with others at Capital?

### Friday: Read Matthew 28:18-20

#### Share Your Faith With Others

9. How did you become a Christian?
10. Who in your life do you share your faith with? Is there anyone you want to start sharing your faith with?
11. What steps will you take in 2019 to grow?