

Word on the street



Pastors Tim and Candy Ryder

The Holidays are now past and our thoughts turn to a new year. It's a great time to think and plan, to make resolutions and re-focus on our goals and priorities. You may be setting new goals and priorities for your personal life or maybe for your family. The bottom line is that everything feels fresh and new, full of hope and potential. This led my thoughts to think of "new" from God's perspective.

The scriptures tell us that God's mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23). What a wonderful thought that they don't get old and stale, or are previously used or recycled. No, they are "new" every morning. We also read that if any man is in Christ he is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). The hard thing about this for me is that I still think and act like my old self way too much. The "new" here is how God sees us, reborn through His Son Jesus. Jesus even gave us a "new" commandment – to love each other as He loved us. A quick side thought here – when asking people how many commandments are there, the normal answer they come up with is 10, right? But add Jesus' new one and you get 11. Anyway, back to my thoughts concerning "new." My favorite new Bible translation is the New Living Translation. In this version of scripture, the word new is found 271 times in 248 verses. I love the thought of new and all that comes with it, and the hope there is for you

and me with God on our side.

Back to the "new" year. When you are making your goals or setting new priorities, make sure you start the list off with God; then everything else will flow to where it should be. Remember, don't lean on your own understanding but instead, acknowledge God in your decisions and He will direct your path (Proverbs 3:5-6).

In addition to all the above, I'd like to reflect on some of my observations as a children's pastor. This crazy and busy world we live in has placed its demands on our families. We find ourselves at the mercy of schedules imposed on us by work, school, sports programs and more. They all compete for almost every bit of extra family time we have. Sadly, what I have seen is that the opportunity for investment in spiritual formation in children is being slowly squeezed out of the picture. As your Children's Pastor, I'd like to recommend a few "new" activities for your family along the lines of spiritual health.

1. Wednesday Connections – with the new format available on Wednesday nights, time commitments have been reduced and opportunities have been increased for meaningful spiritual input for moms and dads, as well as for the kids. Two tracks offer your family an option of what works best for you and the new times allow you to get home in plenty of time for homework, dinner and bedtime.
2. Sunday Rush Hour – every month we focus on a character

virtue that not only teaches kids God's Word, but also gives practical ways to walk out the truths they are learning. An application tool gets the whole family involved in living out what their kids are learning.

3. Family Devotions – they can certainly sound scary and best left to the experts. If you're not aware, we have an awesome tool available for you called "God Times." We hand out a new copy every week as we dismiss the kids from Rush Hour, or they are available online at www.grkidsfirst.org. Each "God Times" contains four days worth of devotions that take about 5 minutes per day. They provide your family a focused opportunity to connect at breakfast, dinner or maybe even just before bedtime.

I don't think I've ever heard of anyone who regretted investing in their own or their children's spiritual formation. I do know people that have regretted pouring everything into school and sports activities but watched their children struggle and walk away from the Lord in their teens and young adult years because they lacked that very thing.

With all the opportunities God gives in this "new" year I would like to challenge and encourage you to make a resolution: set a goal for your family to start something "new" by investing in the spiritual health and formation of each family member. You'll be blessed by the fruit you'll harvest down the road.

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KIDS FIRST

Mission
 Bringing Kids to Christ and
 helping them grow to be
 like Him.



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JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Baby Dedication	14	15	16
17 Kids Fine Art meeting	18 Offices Closed	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
Sundays Kids First Wednesday Kids Classes 6:00-7:00 and 7:15-8:15						

Virtue

Discipline: Doing what you need to do now so you can grow stronger.

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man.”

Luke 2:52

Bible Stories

1/03 – **Read it through**
 (Jesus in the temple)
Luke 2:41-52

1/10 – **Take it in**
 (Jesus tempted in the wilderness)
Matthew 4:1-11

1/17 – **Send it up**
 (Disciples ask Jesus how to pray)
Luke 11:1-4

1/24 – **Take it over**
 (Peter states who Jesus is)
Matthew 16:13-17

1/31 – **Let it all go**
 (The widow's mite)
Mark 12:41-44



Rush Hour is a Sunday morning ministry for Kindergarten through 6th grade. The program includes drama sketches, games, Bible teaching, music and more. You are welcome to stop in to check it out.

Times

Drop off 8:40 am - 9:00 am
 10:30 am - 11:00 am

Parents of children ages newborn to 6th grade

Please be aware that there is a number display in the Worship Center and in the Lighthouse Auditorium. Each family and guest is assigned a number when you register your child at a Children's Ministry sign-in station. If you see your family number on the display, go directly to the Nursery or Sunday School office.

Memory verse

“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

Bottom Lines

1/03 – If you want to know God better, read his book.

1/10 – If you want to know God better, remember his word.

1/17 – If you want to know God better, talk to him.

1/24 – If you want to know God better, talk about him with your friends.

1/31 – If you want to know God better, make him more important than anything.