Week One (January 5-9) "New Life"

Monday: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

What happens to someone who becomes a Christian? What do you think the "old things" that pass away are? Are there any "old things" in your life that you need to get rid of today? As you begin 2015, think about how you can be a new creation this year! Ask God to help you get rid of the old habits, attitudes, and sins and to be a new creation in Him! Here is a great, fun song you might enjoy:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBwH0XOb6dk

Tuesday: 2 Kings 20:1-11

What happened to Hezekiah in these verses? What was Hezekiah's response when he was told he was going to die? How did God answer him? How was Hezekiah given a "new life"? Hezekiah faced a tough situation and his first response was to PRAY! As a result, God answered his prayer and gave him 15 additional years – basically a new chance at life! Will you commit to making prayer YOUR first response to the challenges you face this year? Make a prayer pail for your family to use this year:

http://www.lubirdbaby.com/2009/07/prayer-pail.html

Wednesday: Luke 19:1-10

Who was given a new life in this passage? How do you know his life changed? Can others tell that YOU are a new creation in Christ? How? Verse 10 gives us a glimpse of what Jesus's mission on earth was. This should also be our mission, too. What is it? Will you commit to making that your focus this year? Here is a fun video to go along with today's reading:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUQWsYwu3F4

Thursday: Acts 9:1-22

Who was given a new life in this passage? What was his life like before he met Jesus? How did that change after he met Jesus? Do you know anyone who has had a dramatic change after meeting Jesus? Write out your testimony and be willing to share it with your friends!

Friday: Revelation 21:1-9

What does God promise in these verses? What is your favorite part of this passage?

New Year's Bible Reading Plan (Independent Readers) Arranged by Cheri Gamble, <u>www.cherigamble.com</u> January-February 2015

God will one day make ALL things new – and it will be FANTASTIC!! Celebrate that today! Draw or paint a picture of what you think the New Heaven and New Earth will look like. Here's a picture you can download to color if you'd like:

http://whatsinthebible.com/activity-library/revelation-21-coloring-page/

Additional Activities: Make a prayer journal for the year, Make a list of new things you would like to try this year, Make a list of goals for your relationship with God for this year, Share your testimony with a neighbor or friend.

Week Two (January 12-16) "New Purpose"

Monday: Philippians 3:1-14

What are some of the accomplishments that Paul listed in this passage? How did Paul's purpose change after meeting Christ? How has your purpose changed? Is there anything that you need to leave in the past as you press on to the goal in 2015? Here is a short devotion to go along with today's passage that you might enjoy:

http://kidscorner.reframemedia.com/bible/devotions/i-quit

_ Tuesday: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Who was given a new purpose in these verses? What was his new purpose? David was the youngest in his family and he did not look much like a king. However, God saw past his outward appearance and planned to use Him in a great way. God has great plans for you, too! What do you think those plans might include? Here's a fun video for you:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6HaCjJlzRs

_ Wednesday: Luke 5:1-11

Who was given a new purpose in this passage? How did these men show their commitment to Jesus? When Jesus called, these men left EVERYTHING and followed. Do you have that kind of commitment? You might enjoy this song:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kU2N9kWGG-o

Thursday: Luke 5:27-39

Who was given a new purpose in this passage? What was it? Notice the first thing

Matthew did after Jesus called him as a disciple. What was it? **Matthew immediately introduced his friends to Jesus.** Are you introducing YOUR friends to Jesus?

Friday: Ephesians 4:17-5:2 According to these verses, what should your new purpose/new life be like? Who should you be like? Who should always be your example? How are you doing as an "imitator of God"? Are there any areas where you need to improve?

Additional Activities: Make a list of goals for this year to help you fulfill your purpose in Jesus Christ, invite some of your friends to a church/Christian activity, Play a game of "Go Fish" with someone to remind you of how you need to be a "fisher of men". (for a virtual game, see: http://www.gofish-cardgame.com/)

Week Three (January 19-23) "New Name"

_ Monday: Revelation 2:17, Revelation 3:7-13
What does God promise to give to His people in these verses? What do you think is important about having a new name? God knows you by name, He loves you, and He has His own special name for you! How does that make you feel?
 _ Tuesday: Genesis 17:1-8
Who was given a new name in this passage? Why? What was the promise that he was also given? Do you know that, if you are a Christian, you are considered a son of Abraham, too? Just for fun (and to drive your parents crazy), let's sing this song:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5o_J30x6E6s
_ Wednesday: Genesis 32:24-32
Who was given a new name in this passage? Why? Do you ever feel like you struggle with man and with God? Just remember, God LOVES you! He sees your struggle and He will help you!
Thursday: Matthew 16:13-20
Who was given a new name in this passage? Why do you think he was given his new name? God had a great purpose for Peter's life, and He chose a name that went along with that purpose! God has a great purpose for YOUR life, too!
 Friday: Acts 11:19-26
This new name applies to all of us. What is the new name? Can you call yourself by that name? Sing along!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kB1DIoL8LiM

Additional Activities: Talk with your parents about how they decided on your name, Research what your name means (see:http://www.meaning-of-names.com/), Make an acrostic poem using your name and your personality traits (see: http://mmdelrosario.hubpages.com/hub/acrostic-name-poems)

Week Four (January 26-30) "New Songs"

Monday: Ephesians 5:15-21 How are we supposed to speak to one another? What should our attitudes be like towards the Lord? What are some ways that you can make a melody in your heart to the Lord? Here's a song that might help:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJj_QDPloVs

__ Tuesday: Exodus 15:1-21

Who sang a new song to the Lord in this passage? Why? The Israelites were rejoicing at what God had done for them, and they shared their joy by making a song about it. What has God done for you? Try making a song about it today!

http://www.buttonbass.com/

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 6:12-23

Who celebrated the Lord in these verses? Why? David was ridiculed for his worship style, but he did not let that stop him from worshiping! In fact, what was his response? Are you willing to worship Jesus no matter what others might say? Here's a song for today: (the kids at our church like to do the chicken dance with this song. Try it on the chorus, it's fun:-)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aokWInJ4d0

Thursday: Psalm 33

What kind of song are we supposed to sing to the Lord? Why? Why do you think God wants us to sing new songs to Him? I think that singing new songs to God is one of the ways we show we are created in His image! He is CREATIVE, and He loves it when we are creative in our worship! What are some creative ways that YOU can worship Him today?

___ Friday: Revelation 4

What is one of the things we are going to be doing in Heaven? Spend time practicing today!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3LK3wIHnVE

Additional Activities: Make a praise band and spend time worshiping the Lord, make your own music video, Sing a special in church or help lead a new song at your church.

Week Five (January February 2-6) "New Command"

What is the "new commandment" Jesus gave to His disciples? How are we supposed to love one another? Jesus was our example, and He loved us enough to die for us. How are you doing with this new command? How have you shown that you love the people in your life?
Tuesday: John 15:12-17
What is the command mentioned in this passage? How do we show that we are a friend to Jesus? What are some practical ways that you can love those around you today?
 Wednesday: Colossians 3:1-17
According to verse 14, what should we put on? What are some of the ways love is expressed in this passage? When you have the love of Christ in you, you want to share it with others! When you share His love with others, great things can happen. Try this experiment to show how God can take something little (like us and our love) and use it to do great things for Him. How can this experiment relate to today's Bible reading?

http://www.education.com/science-fair/article/balloon-gas-chemical-reaction/

Thursday: 1 John 4:7-21

What quality do all the people who are friends of God have in their lives? How can the world know that we are a follower of God? How are you doing in that area? Can everyone tell you are a Christian by the love you have for others? A song for today:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ealledf2dl

Friday: 1 Corinthians 13

How important is love according to this passage? What are some of the characteristics of love listed here? Which of these qualities is easiest for you? Which ones are hard? Spend time praying for that today! Here is another way to read these verses:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xg4FgBKIQNM

Additional Activities: Bake heart shaped sugar cookies for your neighbors and deliver them as a way of expressing love, Make & take Valentine's Cards to a nursing home, Practice putting the needs of others above your own this week.

Week Six (February 9-13) "New Command/Part Two"

Monday: Matthew 5:38-48

What type of people are we supposed to love according to these verses? This is a very hard concept, isn't it? We are supposed to LOVE our enemies! How can we do that? What are some practical ways that you can show love to those people who do not love us? Play a memory verse game to help you memorize one of the verses from today's passage:

http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2013/05/love-your-enemies-memory-verse-game.html

__ Tuesday: Mark 12:28-34

What did Jesus say were the greatest commandments? Why do you think that is the case? Sing along!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8mr839-TVs

___ Wednesday: Luke 10:25-37

According to this passage, who are we to love? Who is our neighbor? What does that mean for you? Is there someone near you that you would normally try to ignore that you need to reach out to with the love of Christ this week?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8VRSFuFDGk

__ Thursday: John 13:1-20

How did Jesus show love to His disciples in this passage? How does serving others show love? What are some ways that you can show the love of Christ through

service? Choose a service project to do with your family:

http://www.familieswithpurpose.com/community-service-ideas-families/

Friday: John 3:1-21

How did God show His love to us? What does this mean to you? Make a valentine card/craft to help share the love of Christ with someone who needs Him. Here are a few ideas:

http://buggyandbuddy.com/puzzle-piece-craft-and-activity-roundup/ (change it to say "God loves you to pieces")

http://www.howweelearn.com/celery-heart-stamped-valentines/ (put a Bible verse in as the message)

http://momvstheboys.com/2010/01/valentines-craft/ (sun-catchers – you could also make them cross shaped – make one cross and one heart to remind the recipient of God's love!)

Additional Activities: Go "Valentine" caroling! Visit some people you know and sing songs of God's love to them, Have a "foot washing" ceremony with your family to remind you of service, Draw names and do a "secret service" activity – you have to try to "outserve" the person's name you draw.