

New Year Service Kit

A covenant-renewal order for the first Sunday of the year — Lamentations 3 readings, a prayer of dedication, and inserts on reading the Bible in a year.

When to use it: New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and the first Sunday of January.

Order of service

1. Prelude / gathering music
2. Call to worship (Scripture below)
3. Opening hymn
4. Invocation
5. Prayer of confession and assurance of pardon
6. Responsive reading
7. Scripture reading
8. Sermon
9. Response — communion, offering, or prayer
10. Closing hymn
11. Benediction

Hymn suggestions (public domain)

- Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Suggested preaching text

Lamentations 3:19-26 with Philippians 3:12-14.

Calls to worship

Read one aloud to open the service. Short is better than long — the point is to turn the room toward God before anything else is said.

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (KJV)

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19 (KJV)

This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24 (KJV)

Invocation

Everlasting God, thou art the same yesterday, today, and for ever. We do not know what this year holds, but we know who holds it. Go before us into every unknown month. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Father, we confess the sins of the year behind us — the words we cannot take back, the duties we let slide, the prayers we never prayed. Blot them out, and let us begin again clean. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (KJV)

Responsive reading

New Every Morning

Leader reads the plain lines; the congregation reads the lines in bold. Print this page in the bulletin exactly as it appears here.

Leader: It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Lamentations 3:22 (KJV)

People: **They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.**

Lamentations 3:23 (KJV)

Leader: Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?

Isaiah 43:19 (KJV)

People: **So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.**

Psalms 90:12 (KJV)

All: **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**

Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)

Offering sentence

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:10 (KJV)

Benediction

Speak the blessing over the congregation rather than praying it — the biblical pattern is a word given to the people, not a request made on their behalf.

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV)

Bulletin inserts — cut along the dashed lines

Photocopy this page, cut on the dashed borders, and slip one into every bulletin or visitor pack. Free to reproduce for church use.

BULLETIN INSERT 1 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

Read the Bible this year

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)

Three chapters a day and five on Sundays takes you through the whole Bible in twelve months. Start today rather than in February — a free chronological plan and a printable tracker are at biblesundays.com/reading-plans.

BULLETIN INSERT 2 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

A verse for the year

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19 (KJV)

God's new thing usually springs up in a wilderness, not a garden. If this year begins in a dry place for you, that is exactly the ground the verse is talking about.

Service planning notes

Fill this in on the Thursday before and hand a copy to the musicians, the reader, and the sound desk.

Preacher

Sermon title and text

Reader / liturgist

Hymns

Communion / ordinance

Announcements

Notes

More free KJV resources for Sunday at biblesundays.com/sunday — sermon series plans, printables, hymn texts, and free Bible widgets for your church website.