

Happy New Year!
Lisa & Pastor Ben note
Steven, Sarah & Ethan

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book.

Write a good one! —Brad Paisley

It's day 2 of 2022. A new year is before us, a year like every year. It's a year through which we're going to travel whether we like it or not. But, we're optimistic, aren't we?

But, we better check our *compasses* to ensure we get to where we want to go. There are four points of the compass — north, east, south and west. These are called the *cardinal* points. The Bible reading above from Ephesians is a compass with four cardinal points, which should guide us as we navigate through life.

North: We are *chosen*, verse 4. Note that we were chosen “in Christ before the foundation of the world.” So this is where we stand at the beginning of this year. Where? We face an unknown future as people who were chosen in the mind of God and according to the will of God before continents were formed, oceans came into being and stars were thrown into the dark tapestry of the heavens.

South: We are *children of God*. This is personal. We are not children by *nature*, but by *adoption*, the apostle says. This dovetails with the concept of being chosen. All children are special, but an adopted child is even more special because he or she was chosen. Look out over the unknown terrain of 2022. Now remember that you are a child of God. Why is this important? Do children with loving parents worry about their future? Do they wonder how they will survive? Do they even bother themselves with these types of adult concerns? No! They have complete and utter confidence that their earthly parents will provide for their needs.

Now to what might be called the *east-west* cardinal points. These are *east-west* compass points, based on what the psalmist says in Psalm 103: “As far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us” (v. 12).

West: We are *redeemed*. This is possible only because of the grace of God that has been freely bestowed on us in Christ Jesus (vv. 6-8; see also 2:8-10).

East: We are *forgiven*. Everything ugly and unsightly has been blotted out. Our offenses against a holy God have been removed and dis-remembered.

To review: The four cardinal points of the Ephesian compass are the north-south vectors of our status as *chosen / children* of God. The east-west points of *redemption* and *forgiveness* locate us squarely within God's vast plan of extravagant grace and salvation. Everything we are and hope to be falls within these four vectors, which in themselves encompass God's eternal plan for us.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the assurance that you will not only chart my course, but be my Navigator as well. Amen.

Week of January 2, 2022

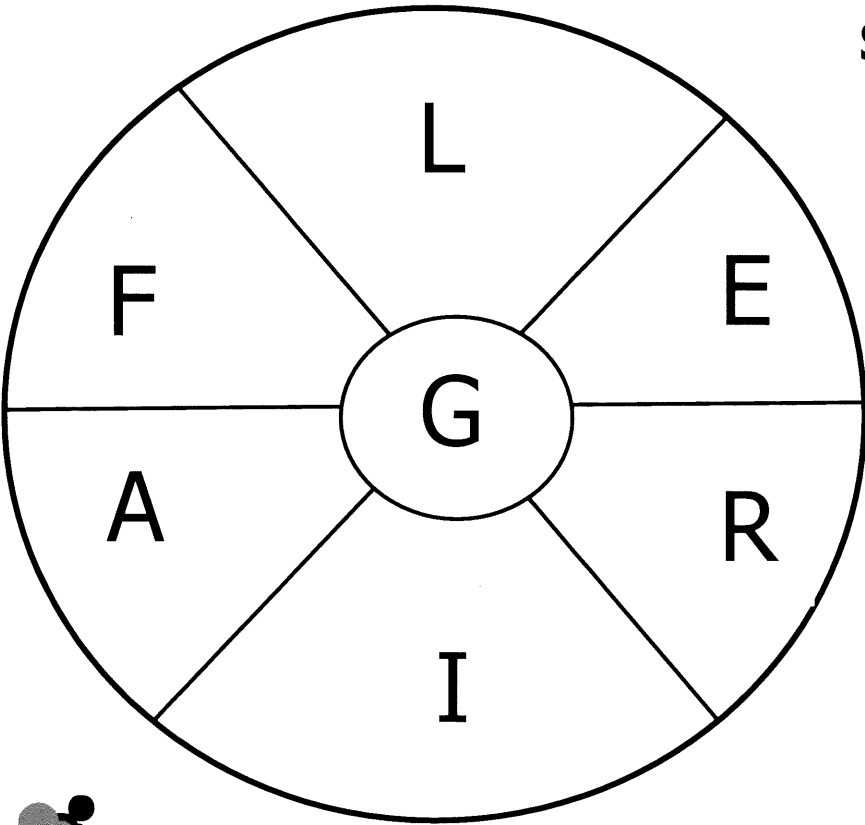
Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Genesis 1-5
- Monday:** Genesis 6-12
- Tuesday:** Genesis 13-18
- Wednesday:** Genesis 19-23
- Thursday:** Genesis 24-28
- Friday:** Genesis 29-32
- Saturday:** Genesis 33-36

READ
THROUGH
THE BIBLE
IN ONE
YEAR!

Each week, *HomeTouch* will provide daily readings from the Bible that will take you through the Bible in one year. Sometimes, we will suggest a **Verses to Remember**. Many *HomeTouch* readers try to memorize these verses; memorization stimulates both the mind and the heart!

SPELLING WHEEL



DIRECTIONS: How many common words of three or more letters can you form using the letters in the wheel to the left?

EACH WORD MUST CONTAIN THE LETTER G.

Can you find the word that has seven letters in it? Suggested answers are below.

- 10 words = Good
- 14 words = Excellent
- 17+ words = Genius!



VERSE TO REMEMBER

I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

—Genesis 12:2 (NIV)

ANSWERS: glare, lager, agile, grail, large, regal, grief, girl, rage, gale, flag, gear, fig, age, gal, rag, leg, lag. The seven-letter word is: fragile.

January 2022						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					