



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc.

January 13-19, 2025

**Sermon Title: All Things New! Part 2: "A New Faith"
by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon**

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

Questions for families, small groups, and individual reflection:

1. One of the points of the message this week is that new songs come from remembering old things. We recall how God has worked in our life. What old things bear remembering for you?
2. Our New Testament reading speaks of the importance of being new wineskins. How do we keep from becoming old and brittle?
3. Another point of the message this week is that renewal of faith comes as we understand the personal nature of God. God is known to us as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How can this understanding be a source of renewal to our faith?
4. We are now three Sundays into a new year, speaking to our God who makes all things new. What aspirations for 2025 have now been forgotten? What aspirations for the year still remain?

Monday, January 13: Read Psalm 40:1-10

In this second week of our sermon series, "All Things New!" we will focus on renewing our faith. Few of us haven't experienced periods of spiritual "dryness," and some of us may be struggling with such a period right now. Years ago, Christian singer and songwriter Keith Green recorded the song, "My Eyes Are Dry" to describe this, which you can listen to here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxVSXgtLSVo>. How do we lift ourselves out of a period of spiritual dryness? The short answer is, we don't. God does. And God has – repeatedly. A first step in renewed faith is remembering what God has done for us in the past – the times when God "lifted me...out of the mud and mire" and "set my feet on a rock."

- **Relationship and Discipleship Opportunity:** *Today's challenge is bigger than usual - we are challenging everyone to write their faith story and the times when God put a "new song" in your mouth. Share it with someone.*

Tuesday, January 14: Read Matthew 9:14-17

Jesus did not come to give us more of the same. He came to give us a new and abundant life that is freedom from the old, dry way of doing things before. As we continue our exploration into renewed faith, let us today examine the ways we may be stuck in old thought patterns, habits, and beliefs that may be holding us back from the new life Jesus is offering us. Our new life and new faith are enabled through the three persons of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Are we fully appreciating and embracing the three persons of God? If not, what is one new habit we could incorporate to more fully do this?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss how focusing on the Trinity can help in renewing one's faith.*

Wednesday, January 15: Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

This classic scripture passage describing the "Valley of Dry Bones" is an essential reminder that we are never too far gone or "dry" in our faith for God to bring us back to life. Perhaps we have experienced heartbreak and tragedy and worry we will never find our way back to faith and joy. Maybe we have made mistakes that cause us to doubt the possibility of forgiveness and redemption. Today's scripture speaks to all of us, assuring us that through the power and grace of our Triune God, all of us are within reach of a new, or renewed, faith full of abundant life.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Share a time when God pulled you from the Valley of Dry Bones.*

Thursday, January 16: Read Acts 3:17-20

Often it is our own sin that is separating us from feeling the joy of faith. We struggle with holding onto our own sinful and unhealthy self-interests, habits, and indulgences, all while wondering why we feel so empty and unhappy. That's the bad news – we all have sinned and fallen short, and we will again. The good news? We can all repent and experience what Peter describes as "times of refreshing" in today's passage. What can you confess then turn away from today that will give you this joy and relief?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Take time to meditate, pray, confess, and repent. Feel the burden lift from you and allow the refreshing breath of God to fill you, renewing you and washing you clean.*

Friday, January 17: Read Isaiah 43:14-21

Each of us should wake up every day remembering the words, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" Every day, we can jump out of bed in anticipation of the "new thing" God is doing in our world and in our lives. Sometimes, it may be obvious. Sometimes, it will be invisible and silent. But it's there. God's there. God's here. Now. Today.

- **Study Opportunity:** *Look for good news today in the world, not bad. Recognize God's renewing power and grace at work.*

Saturday, January 18: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Psalm 40:2-3a

"He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God."

Sunday, January 19: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by praying our Prayer of Common Confession: *Gracious and loving God, as we gather we confess our spiritual amnesia. You have been very good to us and yet we forget. You have given us grace time and time again and we fail to remember. You pour out blessing upon blessing which we fail to recall. In your grace, remind us of who you are, your goodness, and your kindness to us. Restore unto us, the joy of our salvation that we, too, might proclaim a new song this day and beyond. It is in the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.*