



## Happy New Year!

Now that we've begun the new year, it's time to start living into those new year resolutions and goals that we've set for ourselves! "New year, new me!" "Out with the old, in with the new!" That makes sense, right?

One thing that tends to happen in our ambitious pursuits to reach our goals and better ourselves in some way is that we often look at our past selves with contempt, indifference, and other negative attitudes. In our attempts to distance ourselves from our pasts, it causes us to constantly look at our present-day selves as constant works in progress with the greener pastures of where we want to be far away in the distant future. Instead of watering our grass where we currently are, we can get caught up with believing that the grass is greener on the other side.

While it's healthy to consider how your past shaped your present and how your present will shape your future, this outlook can become dangerous when we begin to forget about the One who formed us in the image of love.

**Where we see regrets, God sees growth. Where we see shortcomings and failures, God sees beauty and opportunities. Where we see endings, God sees new beginnings.**

**Beginning this January, we will start our new year by taking a trip to our pasts, present moments, and futures.** Together, we'll see that even though our own stories are still constantly unfolding before our eyes, we're still beloved creations of the Same God of love, grace, compassion, and faithfulness. To that end, we'll learn how the "same old" Gospel story can still shine its light in our stories.

See you on January 15th for "New Year, Same God!"