

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.

December 29, 2025 – January 4, 2026 EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Sermon Title: "New Year's Redirections" by Rev. Bayo Ogungbade

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 small groups and individual reflection:

- 1. Do you believe in New Year's Resolutions, or do you believe they are overrated? Why or why not?
- 2. Can you think of a time when you experienced an event that completely changed the trajectory of your life? How do you feel about that change?
- 3. In what ways do you cultivate your faith? Are you open to experimenting with a new modality of exercising your faith? What could you try?

Monday, December 29: Read Matthew 2:1-9

If you're like many people during this time, you are approaching the upcoming new year with dreams, goals, hopes, plans, and, of course, new year's resolutions. If you're like most people, those resolutions will be all but forgotten by the end of January. What if this year, however, we all decide to take a different path? What if instead of letting our resolutions drive the focus for our year, we decide to let the revelation of Christ in our daily lives be the engine of renewal and redirection for our hearts, minds, and spirits? On this Epiphany Sunday, the first Sunday of the new year, our challenge will be for us to learn how we can both seek and respond to revelation like the Magi. Once Christ was revealed to them, they redirected themselves and their lives accordingly because they couldn't return back to what things once were. The revelation of Jesus didn't freeze them with fear - it propelled them to move forward in faith.

This week as we prepare for New Year's Day and Epiphany Sunday, we will study scriptures that encourage us to put God in the center of our new year, asking God to reveal God's plan to us, redirect us when we stray, and propel us forward toward God's plan for us, which is so much greater than anything we can resolve on our own.

Discipleship Opportunity: For the next few days, replace compulsive list-making with prayer.

Tuesday, December 30: Read Matthew 2:10-12

The journey to Bethlehem took a lot of planning by the Magi. Their return journey took a lot of flexibility and faith, as they heeded God's message through a dream that they were not to return to Herod. Perhaps there is a New Year's message for us in the Magi's willingness to change course and be redirected by God. Where are we going to allow room for God to redirect us in the upcoming year? How will we know when to let go of our original plans in order to allow for God's providence, protection, or magnification?

➤ **Relationship Opportunity**: Share a time when your own flexibility and faith proved far more powerful and significant than following your own original plans.

Wednesday, December 31: Read Proverbs 16:1-9

It's New Year's Eve, and we have ideas about what our upcoming year should look like. So does God. God has plans for our upcoming year - plans that are wonderful, powerful, unexpected...and require our acceptance and partnership. They require times of silence where we listen rather than speak, and sit still instead of keeping busy. As we prepare for tonight and prepare for tomorrow, let us begin the holy habit of making space for God to reveal to us what next year will look like, often one day or one moment at a time, allowing God to "establish the steps" (verse 9) even when we want to plan our course.

➤ **Discipleship Opportunity:** If we are making New Year's resolutions, incorporate times of stillness, meditation, and prayer as a priority.

Thursday, January 1: Read Isaiah 43:18-19

Happy New Year! We celebrate new beginnings today, and we also celebrate the amazing truth that as Christians, we are able to celebrate the amazing truth that God is constantly giving us new beginnings. God is constantly creating a "new thing" that "springs up." Will we "perceive it"? We have the unbelievable blessing of living in a constant state of renewal, where God's grace, available to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, allows us to be made into a new thing anytime, all the time. We can celebrate this today, and can celebrate renewal without the pressure or guilt of having to get it all right this one time. We can be a beautiful, messy work in progress as we stay close to God and let God guide our steps. What a gift. Happy New Year!

Relationship Opportunity: *Share what excites you about being able to be constantly renewed.*

Friday, January 2: Read Psalm 119:100-105

Already falling behind on your resolutions and commitments? Never fear – remember, we are focusing on direction, guidance, and progress, looking for God's lamp for our feet. It's not about our perfection; it's about God's perfect love and law. It's not about our destination; it's about our walk. Let us all thank God today for never condemning us when we slip and fall, never abandoning us when we feel low, and always pointing us in the direction of light, love, truth, joy, peace, and eternity.

➤ **Discipleship Opportunity:** Ask for grace and give grace. Keep going.

Saturday, January 3: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Proverbs 16:3

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."

Sunday, January 4: Let us prepare our hearts and minds with our Prayer of Confession: God of love and God of light, we confess that we have buried and dimmed your light within us. We have chosen the paths of least resistance. We have ignored acknowledging your truths and revelations to us. We have grown comfortable in our complacency. We have not been good neighbors. We have allowed our fears of life to overwhelm our faith in You. Forgive us, O Lord, for putting the blinders on. Grant us the courage of the Magi to let go of our comforts and to step boldly into our callings. Help us to reveal your light within us to the world around us so all can experience the joy of knowing and being known to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.