



**I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
John 15:5**



INTRODUCTION

As we get ready to start a new year, let me challenge us all to consider reading through the Bible in a year. Perhaps you've never thought about the idea of reading the whole Bible or maybe you have tried but got bogged down and gave up. I can tell you God has never been disappointed in any attempt you have made because whether you read for a month or six months, He was able to speak to your heart but more than that, out of His Heart.

We will be taking an adventure through each and every word of God in 2016. Imagine yourself on a treasure hunt and each day is one more clue into discovering the greatest treasure man could ever discover. Let me challenge you now to do three things:

1. Decide that you are going to read the entire Bible in 2016
2. Find a buddy to hold you accountable and whom you can also share your treasure with.
3. Consider buying a new Bible that will be filled with all the lessons you learn. Underline key passages, write a date and leave a word. One day this Bible could be passed down to your kids and grandkids; in it will be a simple picture of how wonderful God has been in your life.

This year we will be publishing a one page calendar that will not only have the Scripture Memory verse on it but also the reading for the entire month.

-Dwight Moody

ETWORK

IT MAY BE COLD BUT FELLOWSHIP IN FEBRUARY WILL WARM YOUR HEART

Webster defines the word "fellowship" as a "friendly association, especially with people who



share one's interests; a group of people meeting to pursue a shared interest or aim."

When I think of the word "fellowship" I am reminded of the Apostle Peter. Peter was the "Rock" upon which the church would be built. As you read about Peter you find these descriptive words about him: fisherman, outspoken, pillar, disciple, enthusiastic, reckless, strong-willed, brash, impulsive. I am certain that if you asked those closest to him they would

repeat these and add their own.

However, it is important that we also remember Peter as a friend of Jesus. As such, he learned from The Master the most important lessons in life. He modeled those lessons with others and with us in the scriptures. One that I remember was given at Pentecost. In Acts 2:44-47 (ESV) he preached about the fellowship of believers:

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day to day those who were being saved.

Peter reminds us about the importance of joining together in acts of fellowship with each other - worship, prayer, meals, service, praise and thanksgiving.

We each have an opportunity to do that by joining in EBC's "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" experience. This is your chance to share your home and a meal with someone else from our church anytime during the month of February.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

-Paula Long

Please give this your prayerful consideration and if you would like to participate in this fellowship event please let [Paula Long know via email](#).



OLUNTEER

"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered" Proverbs 11:25

January is a time for new beginnings and for discovering opportunities to serve the Lord. Service as a Wee Worship volunteer is the perfect new beginning that fills an important need in our Children's Ministry at Erlanger Baptist Church.

Wee Worship provides a place where babies and children through age 5 can go while their parents participate in regular Sunday worship. It is a quality experience in a safe and structured environment where the youngsters learn about the Lord and are exposed to Church life at an early age.

Wee Worship is staffed by volunteers from the EBC Church Family who have been called to spend time in service to families with children.



[Link to video from Jo Ann Teter](#)

Our current volunteers, who sometimes pull double duty, could really use your help! Your involvement would be an important step in sharing the burden for a few minutes each month. Volunteers serve on a rotating basis and are mentored for a few weeks until they become comfortable with the role. To simplify scheduling, they serve the same Sunday each month. More volunteers lessen the load on the existing staff so that everyone can enjoy participation in Sunday worship. Our aim is to field enough volunteers so that nobody would be expected to serve more than once a month.

Volunteering for Wee Worship is a gratifying experience as expressed by long time staff member Debbie Worley who has been serving for 30 years,

"The main reason I keep going back is to serve those parents and to give them a chance to worship...and I love the kids! It gives me a chance to serve God by doing what I have been called to do."

The children's worship is held in classrooms at EBC for 20 minutes in a structured group setting, where the kids learn selected bible verses. Next, they split up by age group to participate in Wee Worship, where for they go for 30 minutes to participate in singing and other age appropriate activities.

For the families served, Wee Worship provides an immensely important opportunity for the parents and the kids.

[Link to video from Melissa Stolz.](#)

-David Bird

To volunteer as a Wee Worship helper contact: [Eric Thomason at 859-727-2588](mailto:eric@erlangerbaptist.org) e-mail: eric@erlangerbaptist.org

DUCATE

Have you ever wondered how God wants to use you? What areas of ministry He wants you to invest your time and energy into?



God prepares His children for ministry through life experience and gives us a passion for the ministry areas where He expects us to serve. Romans 12:1-8 explains that just as our physical bodies are made of many parts that work together; it is the same for the Church body. God designed the Church, the people of God, to work together, each contributing according to the Spiritual

Gifts He provides.

Every believer is given at least one spiritual gift. These gifts are made available to us when we are saved. They are not something we can earn . . . they are gifts. This means that the Holy Spirit gives them to us, and He helps us to use them to serve God and others.

Ephesians 4:16 tells us that each member has an important role in the Body-serving one another through the use of our gifts is not optional.

So why not take a look at the [Spiritual gift assessment](#) and begin to see how God wired you for service . . . and then prayerfully consider what EBC ministry opportunity God has planned for you.

-Laura Ellis



TEWARDSHIP

Definition: The word *stewardship* ranks among the most used words in the "Christian" language. It strikes fear into the minds of church goers everywhere. Even thinking about it brings financial ruin to givers and makes pastors and church staff among the richest people in the world.

I hope this false definition brings laughter or at least a smile to your face. You must admit though, that some people in the church actually feel this way. However, to limit the meaning of stewardship to "money," is to miss other important areas of spiritual growth, and to limit the meaning to "giving to our church or other charitable causes" is to limit the blessings true biblical stewardship brings.

Scripture teaches that a steward is one entrusted with the possessions of another (Matt.25:14). If you have a job where you handle your company's money, you are a steward. If you have children, you are not only a parent but also a steward entrusted to care for them. Simply put, we all are stewards at some level and most of us at multiple levels. The Christian understanding is that since we have been redeemed/bought back by the blood of Christ, we belong to Him (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Our understanding is that He owns all that we are and have and has made us stewards of what has been entrusted to us.

So the question we must ask ourselves is, "Am I a good and faithful steward?" In considering this question, consider answers to questions like, "Am I fair and honest in my job, so Christ is honored?", or "Do I provide for my family not only financially but also spiritually?" "Do I have habits that will be detrimental to others if they follow my example?"

I have had the opportunity to facilitate Financial Peace University (FPU) several times. FPU is a 9-week course, designed to help attendees become good stewards of their financial resources. Training will include areas like getting out of debt, how to fund an emergency fund, saving for college, retirement and how to develop and work a budget. Our church will be starting a FPU class in January. The class is not free, but I promise that if you come and apply yourself you will be blessed financially, relationally, and spiritually. If you are married, it is crucial that your spouse attend with you. The class is video driven with follow-up discussion. You will not be

called out to share any personal information or forced to talk before others. In fact, you will laugh a lot in listening to Dave Ramsey. If you are interested, you can register on the church's website at erlangerbaptist.org. The cost for your kit (required) will be around \$100 per individual/family.

We have all heard the saying "if you keep on doing what you've always been doing; we will keep on getting what you've always have been getting." In this new year, try something different!

-Bob Smith

[Register for Financial Peace University.](#)



ELL

We continue to be excited about what the Lord had been doing through the partnership we share with Shalom Baptist Church in Guatemala City, Guatemala. This is a brief video from Pastor Alvaro, translated Ivan Diaz, one of the other pastors. We praise God for all the sacrifice and service our people have made and give the Lord all the glory for the lives that have been changed. Please join us in continuing to pray for Shalom, Las Conchas and the people of Guatemala. Our next trip will be in October.

-Dwight Moody

[See the video from Pastor Alvaro](#)



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STAY CONNECTED

