

MARINERSCHURCH

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Happy New Year! Though we are not gathering on January 1st for regular services, we believe God wants to make the most out of this time for you and your family. We have developed a resource to equip you in a few different ways. Happy New Year and we will see you on January 8th.



Activity : Trust Walk (15 min)

For this activity, a leader gives verbal or nonverbal instructions to navigate a blindfolded teammate to avoid obstacles.

Instructions:

- Find a safe location with minor obstacles, such as a park or your backyard.
- In pairs, use a bandana to blindfold 1 person; designate other person as the navigator.
- Navigator slowly spins blindfolded teammate 2-3 times around to confuse which direction they are headed.
- Navigator solely relies on verbal clues to guide through course (e.g. “In about 4 steps forward take a step up.”).
- After 5 minutes, teammates switch roles.
- Mix up pair combinations (e.g. children guide parents, parents guide children, etc.)

*Alternative option: Younger participants may use words and touch as the Navigator.

Devotional : Step into the Unknown (20 min)

Take a few moments to read out loud or to yourself **Matthew 14:22-33**. Use the questions below to facilitate a discussion.

Children Questions: Re-read verses 29-31

- What happened when Peter went out on the water? What did Jesus do to show Peter He was with him?
- When Peter stepped out into the water he began to sink because he took his eyes off of Jesus but Jesus was right there with him. When you are scared or nervous about something, how does God show you He is with you? Describe a time when you took a step of faith (either by trying something new or by being brave) and God was with you.
- What is one new thing this year that you would like to ask God to help you do better? Maybe it's being nicer to your siblings or maybe it's talking to someone new at school. Maybe it's just simply praying or reading your Bible more. We can all grow and take that step of faith like Peter did remembering that God is with us!

Junior High Questions:

- When the disciples saw Jesus walking towards them, what did Peter do?
- Why did Peter begin to sink?
- Think through 2016. Where in your life have you taken your eyes off Jesus and doubted Him?
- During this year ahead of you, what can you do to keep your eyes on Jesus and have more faith in Him?
- Read **Philippians 3:12-14**. How do these verses encourage you to have more faith in Christ?

High School and Beyond:

- What kind of things do you tend to trust in when life gets stormy, that makes you feel comfortable and secure rather than fearful?
- So far in life, what has been your experience with failure?
- Read **Psalms 49:1-13**. What happens when we place our trust in “boats”?
- As you consider the world around you, what need, area of the world, or group of people do you think God would have you pray for and serve in some way?

Family Blessing : Hebrews 12:1-2 (5 min)

Blessing others is a beautiful opportunity to speak truth and goodness into those we love. Here are some guidelines from “Spiritual Parenting” by Michelle Anthony on how to bless others.

Before a word is spoken, **meaningful touch** is used, through a laying of hands, to communicate love and affirmation to someone. **A spoken message** places unconditional love & acceptance into the heart of a child or loved one. **High value** is attached to the word “blessing,” and carries the idea that the person you’re blessing is of incredible worth. With a blessing, comes an opportunity to **picture a special future** by turning on the lights in the hearts of our family to step into the truth of who God sees them to be. By blessing someone, you are taking **an active commitment** to be in agreement with how God sees them.

Speak this Blessing over your child based on Hebrews 12:1-2:

(*Family Member’s Name*), may you always seek to stay on the path God has laid out before you. (*Family Members Name*), always remember that you are not held back by sin and shame. Fix your eyes on Jesus, who perfects your faith. Focus your eyes on the joy before you, because of the cross, which Jesus endured for you.



Family Craft : Thumbprint Tree (15 min)

- Take a piece of paper, card stock, or canvas and draw a big tree with branches but no leaves.
- Have each member of your family dip their thumbs in paint or ink and make thumbprint leaves all over the branches.
- After the thumbprints dry, spend a few moments in prayer and have each member of the family write one word on their thumbprints for whatever you feel that God is wanting to grow in you during this new year. (ex. kinder, helpful, heart of service...) You can, and we encourage you, to have more than one thumbprint. God can do lots of stuff!
- Frame or display your family tree somewhere your family can read and see it as a reminder to what God revealed to you and celebrate how He helps you grow in those areas.



New Year's Day Pinwheels (30 min to prep & bake)

**Preheat Oven to 400 Deg/
To yield 10 pinwheels:**

- 1 Cup dried cranberries
 - 1 Cup chopped walnuts
 - 1/2 Cup Sugar
 - Zest of 1 Orange
 - 2 Refrigerated pie crusts
 - 2 tablespoons butter, melted
 - 1 whole egg
 - 2 tablespoons of water
 - honey
- What you'll Do:**
- Line baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.
 - Mix cranberries, walnuts, sugar, & zest in bowl until combined.
 - Roll pie crust on floured surface.
- Brush crust with melted butter.
 - Spread cranberry filling on top of crust.
 - Roll into a log and pinch edges to seal.
 - Combine egg and water, beat, and brush log with mixture.
 - Cut into 10 slices and place on baking sheet 1 inch apart.
 - Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown.
 - Place pinwheels on a cooling rack and spread a teaspoon, or more, of honey on each pinwheel.
 - Let cool before serving.

Try to include all family members into as many of the steps as possible. Pouring and mixing are perfect steps for little ones to help with!



PANCAKE BREAKFAST TO FOLLOW **ALL** SERVICES

NEW YEAR'S
KICK OFF

..... JAN 8, 2017
9AM | 11 AM | 5PM

