

# Getting Ready for a New Year: A Reflection Tool

Life can be fast, so it can be helpful to pause, reflect, pray, and plan. This resource is for anytime, but a new year is a special time to reflect on the past's challenges and joys and then look to the future. A time to *remember* the good, *repent* the wrong, and *release* the pains in beginning a new phase of life. These questions will help you reflect and pray. Whether a good or a "bad" year, God is in it all — and none of it is wasted.

## Reflecting on Last Year (6 months):

- One thing I am proud of in this last year is...
- One thing I am not proud of from last year is...
- One thing I learned about God or His mission in the world is...
- One way I saw God at work in my life last year was...
- One Bible verse or passage that is part of this last year for me was...
- One way I saw God at work in (the family or another's life) last year was...
- One thing I am thankful for from this past year is...
- What would be God's message to you about last year? (Remember comfort not only conviction.)
- Write a prayer about last year, leaving behind what you need to and celebrating what was good.

→→→→→See the back for exploring next year.→→→→→

## Seeking God for the Next Year (or next 6 months):

Considering your reflection from the other side, we now seek God about the next year, listening for what He reveals, encourages, comforts, or even convicts.

- One way I would like my relationship with God to be different next year is....
- What do you think *God's* desire for you as His child is for next year?
- One area that caused me to not use my time well and I'd like to change is...
- One relationship in my life (family, extended family, friend, co-worker, etc.) that I would like to see different is....? How would you like it to be different?
- One person I was disrespectful/"not nice"/ignored, etc. to last year that I would like to love better is...
- At the end of next year, one way I would like to (do, be, or change) is... (Another way to think about it: What would you be disappointed to see if you met your "next year" self?)
- One wrong or problem that I see in the world is \_\_\_\_\_ . One way I could live God's mission in it is...
- One Bible verse or passage that God seems to be laying upon my heart or mind for this next year is...
- Considering that verse or other passages, write a prayer about the coming year in hopes and fears, gratefulness and requests.

→→→→→ See the front for exploring last year. →→→→→