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Winning Pattern for the *New Year*

“You will never be sorry — for thinking before acting, for hearing before judging, for forgiving your enemies, for being candid and frank, for helping a fallen brother, for being honest in business, for thinking before speaking, for being loyal to God and the church, for standing by your principles, for refusing to participate in gossip, for holding your words when tempted to demean another, for not entertaining impure or hateful thoughts, for sympathizing with the afflicted, for being courteous and kind to all.”

—Anonymous

Priorities for the New Year

by Motte Brown (Focus on the Family)



At the end of each year, as I consider what my New Year's resolutions will be, a sermon from Thabiti Anyabwile always comes to mind. It's on Haggai chapter 1 titled "Priorities." Like with many of us and our resolutions, Thabiti said that the book of Haggai is "a good example of a people who start out with good intentions but drift."

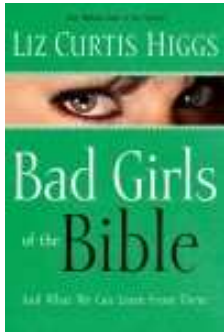
Having just returned from Babylonian exile, God instructed the Israelites to rebuild his temple. And though they began well, they soon became distracted by their own comfort, ceasing work on God's house to build their own "paneled houses." As a result, the heavens "withheld their dew and the earth its crops." From his sermon notes, Thabiti writes:

Haggai charges the people to "give careful thought to your ways." He also observed that they have "planted much but harvested little" — their lack of satisfaction is evidence against them! Their labor was empty and vain because their priorities were wrong. There are few greater pains than those of a life marked by missed opportunities. Israel's pain is common to all those who do not have God as their highest priority.

We all have our paneled houses that will tempt us to lose focus on the highest priority. Let us "give careful thought to" our New Year's resolutions to see if our priority is God or our trappings.

Book Review

contributed by Rose Marie Stanley



Bad Girls of the Bible

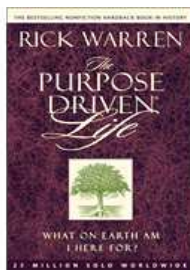
Liz Curtis Higgs

“Most women marvel at Scripture’s “good girls,” such as Sarah, Mary and Ruth. But on most days, that’s not who they see in the mirror. Exhausted by the demands of daily living and burdened by their own desires, most women (if they’re honest) see the selfishness of Sapphira, the deception of Delilah or Jezebel’s take-charge pride.

These *Bad Girls of the Bible* are the women no one wants to talk about – except God. He included their stories in His story. So what can we learn from their lives? Plenty, says Higgs! Here, with humor and contemporary application, Higgs provides insights on what “good girls” can learn from the bad girls’ mistakes and how these lessons can help us handle the challenges of life and joyfully embrace grace.“

What an interesting concept this is. Can we really learn from such women as Delilah or Lot’s wife or Sapphira? Well, read this and make your own conclusions.

Found in our library on the ‘New Books’ shelf.



The Purpose Driven Life

Rick Warren

“You are not an accident. Even before the universe was created, God had you in mind, and He planned you for His purposes. These purposes will extend far beyond the few years you will spend on earth. You were made to last forever!

Self-help books often suggest that you try to discover the meaning and purpose of your life by looking within yourself, but Rick Warren says that is the wrong place to start. You must begin with God, your Creator, and His reasons for creating you. You were made by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense.

This book will help you understand why you are alive and God’s amazing plan for you—both here and now, and for eternity. Rick Warren will guide you through a personal 40-day spiritual journey that will transform your answer to life’s most important question: What on earth am I here for? Knowing God’s purpose for creating you will reduce your stress, focus your energy, simplify your decisions, give meaning to your life, and, most important, prepare you for eternity. The *Purpose-Driven Life* is a blueprint for Christian living in the 21st Century – a lifestyle based on God’s eternal purposes, not cultural values. Using over 1,200 scriptural quotes and references, it challenges the conventional definitions of worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism. In the tradition of Oswald Chambers, Rick Warren offers distilled wisdom on the essence of what life is all about.“

Do you have questions about your life? Well what person doesn’t? If you haven’t read this book and/or followed it’s suggestion try it! You are in for an exciting, eye opener time. It may change your life and it may even change you. Is that a challenge that interests you? Well, read this book and see for yourself!

Found in our library on the ‘New Books’ shelf.



Club 3:16 will NOT be meeting January 1st due to the holiday, but we are meeting **February 5th for Drive In Night**. The kids will be making cars out of cardboard boxes and sitting in them to watch a movie while munching on popcorn. It's a lot of fun, so invite your friends!

Sisters

Sisters will begin again the second week of January. We will be studying a book titled *"Twelve Extraordinary Women"* by John MacArthur. There will be an evening study on Tuesday beginning January 12th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and on Wednesday mornings beginning January 13th from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Childcare is available during the morning study. We invite all women to join us for what promises to be a very interesting and informative look into the lives of various women in the scriptures. Please sign up in the Connection Cafe if you would like to take part in this study.

Stay Connected and Informed in the New Year

Don't forget about our website:
www.rvcconline.com

Go there for details on events and activities, listen to messages and much more. Check it out!

A "New" Puzzle

Every answer in this puzzle is a hyphenated word or a familiar two-word phrase that contains the consecutive letters N-E-W, with the N-E ending the first part and W starting the next.

Example: Periodic oscillation in physics: sine wave

1. Street sign with an arrow:

2. Common property barrier in New England:

3. Riesling or Mosel, e.g.

4. Famous old stock brokerage:

5. Man who prefers to live and work by himself: _____
6. Actress who won an Oscar for "The Three Faces of Eve" (and who married Paul Newman): _____
7. To clean clothes, but not by hand:

8. Female doctor in the old west:

9. Women use them to captivate men:

10. What oil helps reduce in a car:

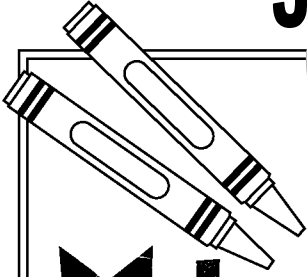
11. Ones who dig for ore or diamonds (they're "United" in a labor union):

12. It hangs from pole to pole and carries messages: _____
13. Word completing the phrase "over and ...": _____

Rating: Good: 8 Excellent: 11 Ace: 13

Answers on page 4.

Just for Kids



Make a joyful noise

People often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. Be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

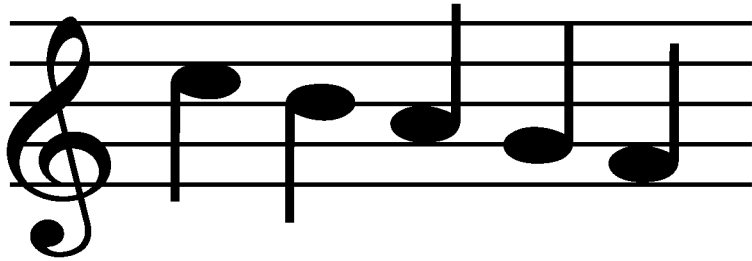
Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship

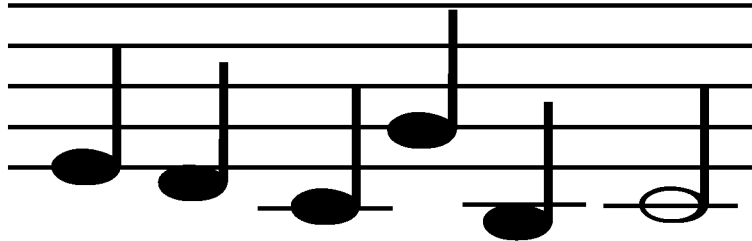


* * * * *

_____ the _____ ;



_____ .



Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

- Answers to "New Puzzle" on page 3:**
1. One way
 2. Stone wall
 3. Rhine wine or fine wine
 4. Payne Webber
 5. Lone wolf
 6. Joanne Woodward
 7. Machine wash
 8. Medicine woman
 9. Feminine wiles
 10. Engine wear
 11. Mine workers
 12. Telephone wire
 13. Done with

JINGLE BELL TAMBOURINE

To ring in 2010, make a joyful noise with this musical instrument.

What you need:

- 2 plastic plates
- Hole punch
- Pen
- Beads or beans (or other small items that will make noise when shaken)
- Tacky craft glue
- 6 pieces of ribbon (each about 5" long and 1/4" wide)
- 6 jingle bells
- Stickers
- Markers



What you do:

1. On the bottom of each plate, write, "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth" (Psalm 100:1, NIV).
2. Punch six evenly spaced holes around the rim of one plate. Mark the holes with a pen and then punch six matching holes in the second plate.
3. Pour the beads or beans into one plate and then squeeze glue around the rim of that plate.
4. Place the other plate on top, aligning the holes. (Make sure the Bible verses are on the outside.) Let it dry.
5. Thread one ribbon through one hole and through one bell, and then tie the ribbon. Repeat five more times, once for each hole.
6. Decorate the instrument with stickers or markers.
7. Play your tambourine when you sing your favorite songs.