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# *A Year in the Word*

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## **A Year in the Word: Part 2**

### **Small Group Questions: How to Have a Blessed New Year**

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#### **Read**

Genesis 1:27–28; Ephesians 3:20; Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:31–33; Psalm 1:1–3 and 37:4; Joshua 1:8; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 1 Corinthians 15:33; and Proverbs 1:1

#### **Reflect**

Psalm 1 describes how God blesses a faithful person and what we need to do to set ourselves up to receive that blessing. The success of this year will be largely determined by your response to the resistance of God's blessing in your life. This year, will you seek God's will no matter your circumstances?

Pastor Greg offers us three premises for making this a successful year.

1. Premise #1: God wants to bless you more than you can imagine this year.
  - a. In Genesis 1:27–28, what is the first thing God does after creating humankind?
  - b. What are your goals this year and how do you think they compare to God's goals for you?
  - c. What would make this year better or worse than last year?
2. Premise #2: God's blessing (prosperity) is not a magic formula.
  - a. What is your definition of prosperity?
  - b. What are some of the pitfalls of thinking that following a formula will get God to bless you?
    - i. What is God really looking for in you?
3. Premise #3: God's blessing (prosperity) is not automatic.
  - a. Describe a time you have worked hard and started off well, but then faced serious resistance.
    - i. What form(s) did the resistance come in? What blocked (kinked) the flow of the Holy Spirit? Were you able to overcome those kinks? If so, how?
    - ii. What did you learn from that experience?

How to Have a Blessed New Year:

1. Listen to the right advice.
  - a. Who do you go to for advice, and why?
  - b. How often do you dig into God's Word for guidance?
2. Hang around with the right people.
  - a. Would you say the people closest to you have the same core values and beliefs?
  - b. Think of some of the big decisions you've made and how those around you influenced your choices. Discuss.
  - c. What role, if any, has the church, small groups, and volunteering played in helping you form strong friendships?
3. Meditate on the right things.
  - a. What do you need to make right with God to start off the year right—start fresh?
  - b. What is the value of meditating on God's Word?
  - c. Do you have a Bible verse that you would consider a life verse?
    - i. If so, what is it and how has it helped you through some of life's storms?
  - d. Identify three ways God has blessed you in your current season.

**Respond:** What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?