

*So do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV)***

*And God spoke all these words: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.” **Exodus 20:1-3 (NIV)***

WHY IS FIRST SO IMPORTANT?

1. FIRST SETS THE TONE

2. FIRST IMPLIES MORE

*You are to give over to the Lord the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the Lord. **Exodus 13:12 (NIV)***

*In days to come, when your son asks you, “What does this mean?” say to him, “With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” **Exodus 13:14 (NIV)***

3. FIRST REQUIRES SACRIFICE

*But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” **2 Samuel 24:24 (NIV)***

4 FIRSTS THAT WILL SHAPE OUR YEAR

1. THE FIRST OF MY YEAR

*Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! **Psalm 47:1 (ESV)***

2. THE FIRST OF MY MONTH

3. THE FIRST OF MY WEEK

4. THE FIRST OF MY DAY

*...in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight...Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. **Proverbs 3:6-10***