



**Worship is  
a gift**

  
FIRST MELISSA

**How can we walk  
by Faith in the new year?**



# Genesis 11



Terah lived seventy years, and became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. Now these are the records of the generations of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran; and Haran became the father of Lot. Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and Iscah. Sarai was barren; she had no child. Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife; and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans in order to enter the land of Canaan; and they went as far as Haran, and settled there. The days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in Haran. Genesis 11:26-32



# Who was Abram?

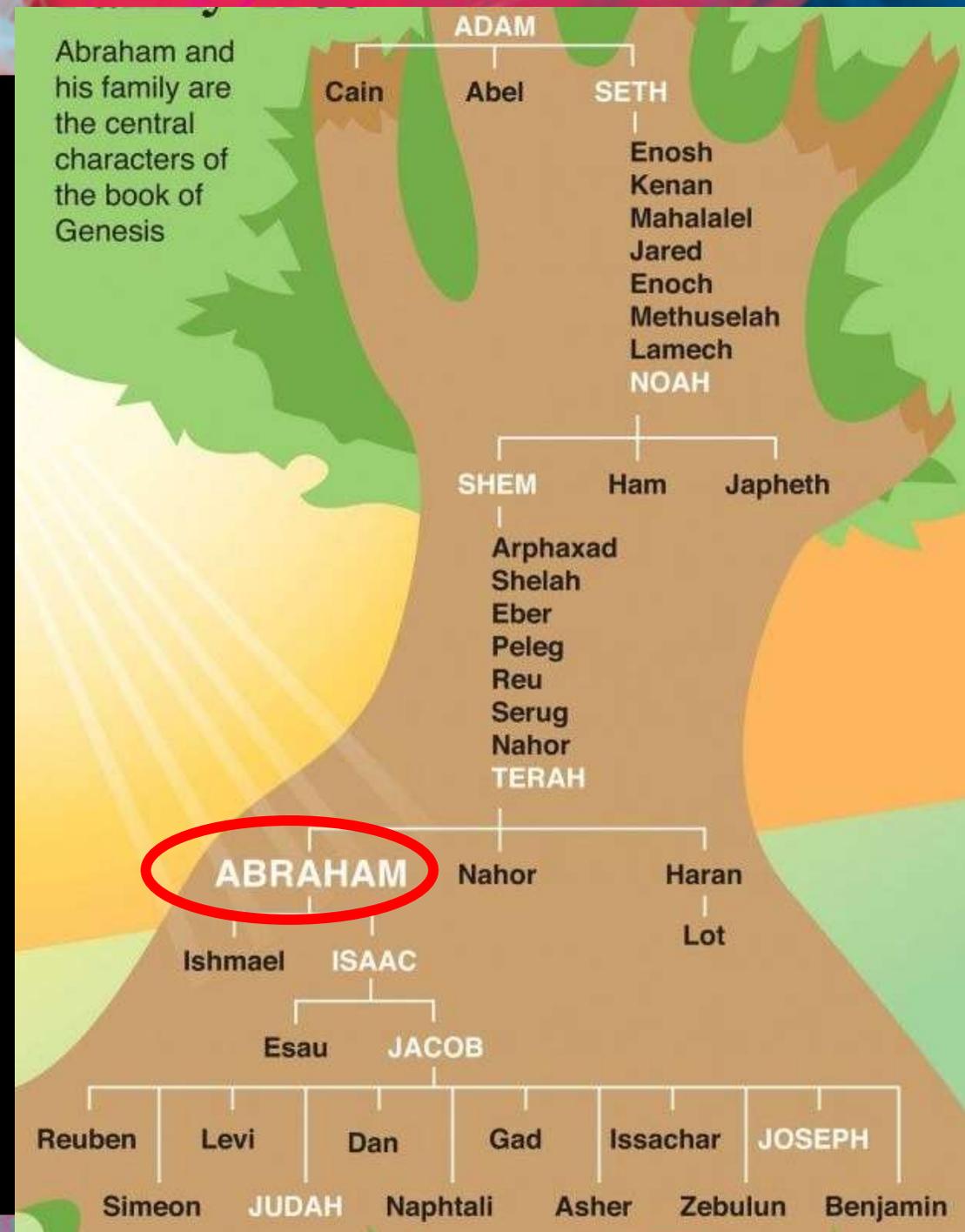
- He was the son of Terah, a descendant of Noah's son, Shem. (Genesis 11:27). Terah was born about 2230 BC. Abraham was born about 2160 BC.
- His childhood was spent in Ur of the Chaldees, a prominent Sumerian city where the Tower of Babel was located.
- Terah, his father, moved to Haran with the family (Genesis 11:31) and after some years died there.
- At different times Abram lived in Shechem, Bethel, Hebron, and Beer-sheba.

Source: Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary



# Abram's Family Tree

Abraham and his family are the central characters of the book of Genesis



Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - [www.thequickviewbible.com](http://www.thequickviewbible.com)





# Genesis 12



Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you;” Genesis 12:1

Similar to the passage we studied last Sunday...

Jesus said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”  
Matthew 4:19

What if you are settled and comfortable when God calls.  
Will you go?



## God called Abram to leave:

- Country
- Relatives
- Father's house

## What is God's call on our lives?

- To demonstrate faith and obedience
- To be set apart for Him and for His service





Now the Lord said to Abram, “And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless (בָּרַךְ **barak**) those who bless you, and the one who curses (קָלַל **qalal** “minor curse”) you I will curse (אָרַר **arar** “major curse”). And in you all (כָּל **kol**) the families of the earth will be blessed.” Genesis 12:2-3

“those who bless you” = to acknowledge you, bow the knee before you, treat you as important



# Blessing FOLLOWS Obedience

Genesis 12:1-2a

Command #1 “Go forth”

Promise #1 “I will make you a great nation”

Promise #2 “I will bless you”

Promise #3 “I will make your name great”



# Blessing FOLLOWS Obedience

Genesis 12:2b-3

Command #2 “Be a blessing”

Promise #1 “I will bless those who bless you”

Promise #2 “I will curse those who curse you”

Promise #3 “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed”



# God said, "I will curse those who curse you"

- Amalekites
- Egyptians
- Assyrians
- Babylonians
- Roman Empire
- Spain
- Portugal
- Russia
- British Empire
- Nazi Germany
- Lebanon
- **America... Be warned**



# “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed”

- The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.”

Galatians 3:8

- Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.

Galatians 3:16



# God's 2 commands to Abram

- Go
- Be a blessing

As followers of Jesus, we are called to go and be a blessing to others.



So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons (“souls” נַפְשׁוֹת *nefesh*) which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan.  
Genesis 12:4-5

My worship of God will lead me to obediently follow God  
When I follow God, it may affect my family and friends





# Abram journey to Canaan

Drawing by Gustav  
Dore (French artist,  
1832-1883)



**By faith** Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. **By faith** he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:8-10





Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak (אֵלֹן *Elon*) of Moreh (מִּוְרָה “teacher”). Now the Canaanite was then in the land. Genesis 12:6

To the north of Neby Belan is a large Terabinth oak which overlooks the Tirzah valley (Wadi Farah).

<https://biblewalks.com/sites/ElonMoreh.html>



The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him. Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there **he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord**. Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev. Genesis 12:7-9

Genesis 21:33 “he called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God”

Genesis 26:25 “he built an altar there and called upon the name of the Lord”



# When God calls, how should we respond?

- Hear
- Obey
- Worship



Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. Genesis 12:10

- Even when we follow God's path and God's timing, difficulties and challenges may arise.
- Was the departure to Egypt an act of faith or not?
- Should Abram have stayed in the Land of Canaan and trusted God to provide?



It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, “See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman; and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you.” Genesis 12:11-13

\*The claim that she is “my sister” occurs three times in the patriarchal narratives (Genesis 12:13; 20:2; 26:7).

\*Half-truth... “she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife” Genesis 20:12

My faith yesterday does not guarantee my faith today

I have to renew my commitment to the Lord every morning



# Modeh Ani - Morning Prayer in Hebrew

מוֹדֵה אֲנִי לְפָנֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ חַי וְקַיִם שֶׁהֵחֵזְרַתָּ בִּי נִשְׁמָתִי  
בְּחֶמְלָה, רַבָּה אֱמוּנָתְךָ:

Modeh ani lefanecha melekh chai vekayam she-he-  
chezarta bi nishmahti b'chemlah, rabah emunatecha.

I am thankful before You, living and enduring King,  
for you have mercifully restored my soul within me.  
Great is Your faithfulness.

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/morning-blessings/>



“Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you.” Genesis 12:13

- Fear tries to defeat Faith
  - “In enemy territory a husband could be killed for his wife. But if Abram were known as her brother, someone wanting her would have to make marriage arrangements with him, which would possibly give him time to react in his own interest.” – Bible Knowledge Commentary
- Was Abram’s strategy an act of faith or not?
- Have you been afraid to act or speak?



It came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels. Genesis 12:14-16

Do the rewards prove this strategy was one of faith?



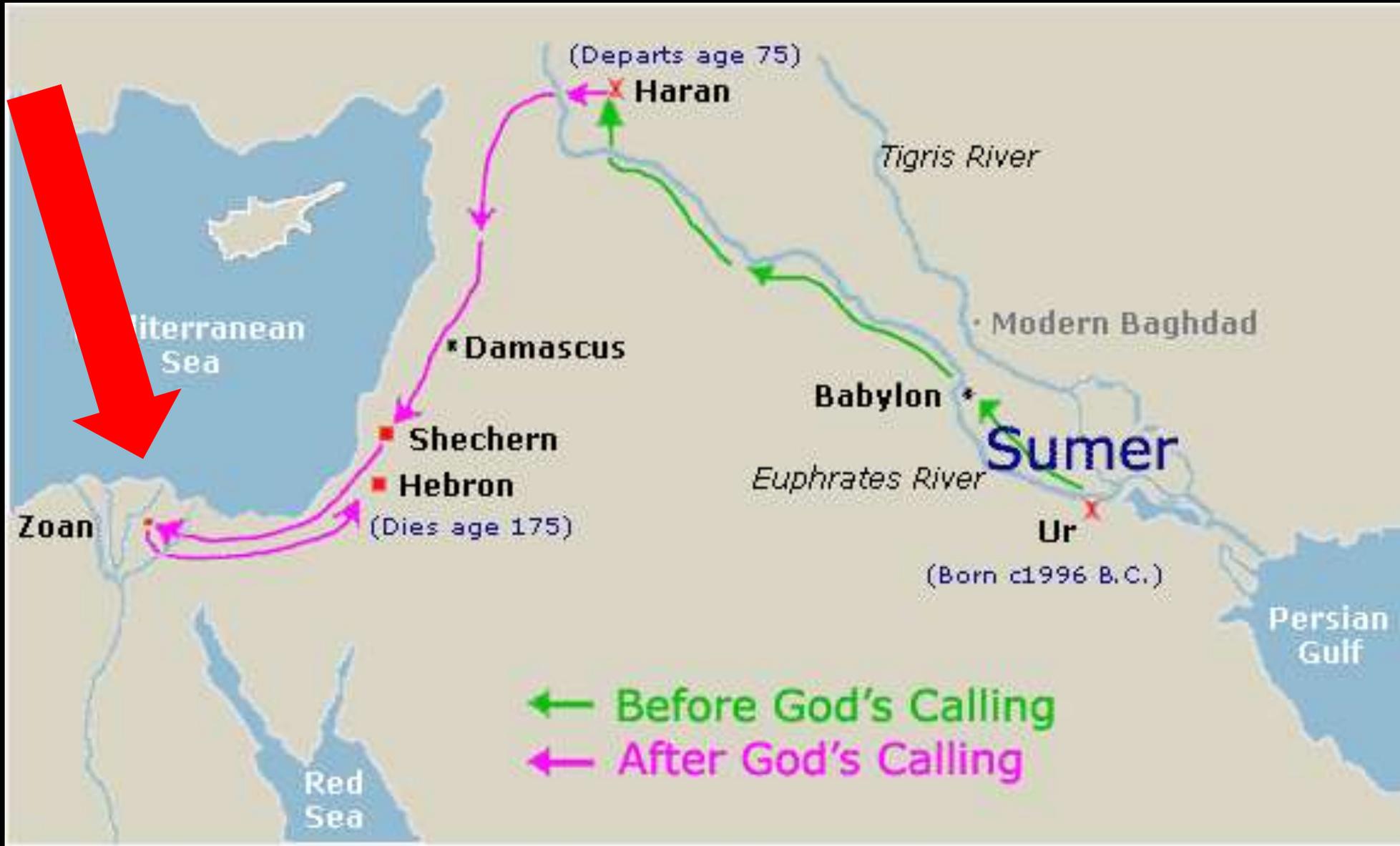
But the Lord struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go." Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him. Genesis 12:17-20



One cannot miss the deliberate parallelism between this sojourn of Abram in Egypt and the later event in the life of the nation in bondage in Egypt. The motifs are remarkably similar: the famine in the land (12:10; 47:13), the descent to Egypt to sojourn (12:10; 47:27), the attempt to kill the males but save the females (12:12; Ex. 1:22), the plagues on Egypt (Gen. 12:17; Ex. 7:14–11:10), the spoiling of Egypt (Gen. 12:16; Ex. 12:35–36), the deliverance (Gen. 12:19; Ex. 15), and the ascent to the Negev (Gen. 13:1; Num. 13:17, 22). The great deliverance out of bondage that Israel experienced was thus already accomplished in her ancestor, and probably was a source of comfort and encouragement to them. God was doing more than promise deliverance for the future nation; it was as if in anticipation He acted out their deliverance in Abram.

- Bible Knowledge Commentary





As 2019 begins...

How can we walk by Faith in the new year?



# How can we walk by Faith in the new year?

- N
- E
- W
- Y
- E
- A
- R



# How can we walk by Faith in the new year?

- No more living in fear
- E
- W
- Y
- E
- A
- R



# No more living in fear

- But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! Isaiah 43:1
- For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power and love and sound judgment.  
2 Timothy 1:7



# How can we walk by Faith in the new year?

- No more living in fear
- Every day begins with thanksgiving
- **W**
- **Y**
- **E**
- **A**
- **R**



# Every day begins with thanksgiving

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting. 1 Chronicles 16:34

מודה אני כל בוקר

Modeh ani kol boker

“I will give thanks every morning”



# How can we walk by Faith in the new year?

- No more living in fear
- Every day begins with thanksgiving
- Want Jesus more than anything else
- Y
- E
- A
- R



# Want Jesus more than anything else

- O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Psalm 63:1
- Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. Psalm 73:25
- Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.” John 6:35



# How can we walk by Faith in the new year?

- No more living in fear
- Every day begins with thanksgiving
- Want Jesus more than anything else
- Yes is the answer when God calls
- E
- A
- R



# Yes is the answer when God calls

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you;” Genesis 12:1

Jesus said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19



# How can we walk by Faith in the new year?

- No more living in fear
- Every day begins with thanksgiving
- Want Jesus more than anything else
- Yes is the answer when God calls
- Experience the spiritual journey with others
- A
- R



# Experience the spiritual journey with others



## Join A Small Group

on campus  
in a home



Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

# How can we walk by Faith in the new year?

- No more living in fear
- Every day begins with thanksgiving
- Want Jesus more than anything else
- Yes is the answer when God calls
- Experience the spiritual journey with others
- Ask God how you can bless someone else
- R



# Ask God how you can bless someone else

- As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10
- “and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:44-45
- Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2
- And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16



# How can we walk by Faith in the new year?

- No more living in fear
- Every day begins with thanksgiving
- Want Jesus more than anything else
- Yes is the answer when God calls
- Experience the spiritual journey with others
- Ask God how you can bless someone else
- Read God's Word every day



# Read God's Word every day

Read the Entire  
Bible in 2019

Daily Bible  
Reading Plan

Subscribe to FM10

But his delight is in the law of the  
Lord, and in His law he meditates  
day and night. Psalm 1:2



# How can we walk by Faith in the new year?

- No more living in fear
- Every day begins with thanksgiving
- Want Jesus more than anything else
- Yes is the answer when God calls
- Experience the spiritual journey with others
- Ask God how you can bless someone else
- Read God's Word every day



# In 2019, let's be the forever friends of God

“Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?”  
2 Chronicles 20:7

