

January 3, 2020



## Call To Worship

L: The Christmas tree lights have dimmed

P: The once-wrapped gifts have been shared.

L: But the awesome love of God shirt shines brightly in our hearts.

P: Our spirits resound with the good news of salvation.

L: God is with us!

P: Thanks be to God! AMEN.

https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/5616/worship-connection-december-27-2020



## **Opening Prayer**

Lord of mercy and joy, You have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, forgivers and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope as we encounter others.

We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

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## Scripture reading Luke

The Rich and the Kingdom of God

18 A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

19 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother? [a]"

21 "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.

22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

23 When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.

24 Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!

25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

26 Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?"

27 Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."







## Children's Lesson: What's your hand up?

Is there one thing holding you back from following Jesus with your whole heart? For the rich young ruler it was holding on to his wealth.

Your hang up is that one thing in your life that is holding you back in your relationship with Him. Maybe there is something your heart is clinding to which you think is more important than Jesus. Is it getting the lead role in the school play? Is it becoming the player to score the most goals on your soccer team? Is it sneaking extra food from the kitchen at home when no one is looking? Is it not following what your parents say because you think you know better? All of these things can hold you back from having the closest relationship you can have with Jesus."

What is your 'one thing'?" God loves us and wants us to focus on him and make time for prayer and to talk with him.

Ask Jesus for help to give up your 'one thing' to Him. Pray for God to help you give up your 'one thing' this year, so that you can have a relationship with Him or so you can have a closer relationship with him. None of us can give up our 'one thing' all on our own. We need His help every day."







Right side, left side



#### Lesson Craft: Vision

- Vision boards are a great way to reflect on the past year. What has worked this year and what hasn't. what changes you want to make. What goals you have for the upcoming year and the future.
- Simply cut out pictures from a magazine that represent all of those things. Also write words, draw pictures too!

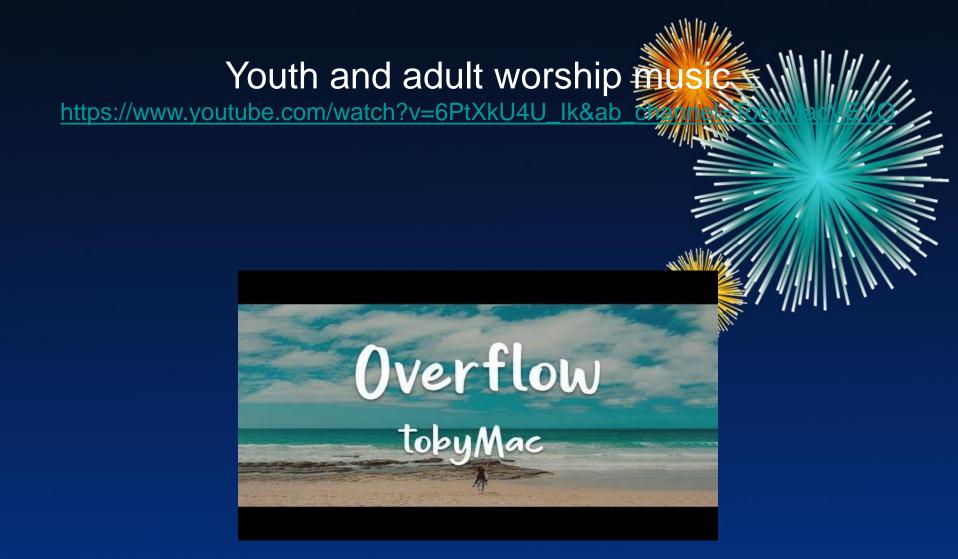




# Scripture Lesson John 1:1-12

- 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God
- 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 1:3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being
- 1:4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
- 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
- 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- 1:7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.
- 1:8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.
- 1:9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
- 1:10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
- 1:11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.
- 1:12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,







# Adult and Youth New Year New Beginnings

Consider the high and low points of the past year:

- 1. Would you change anything if you could? Would you make different decisions?
- 2. What do you want God to do in your life in the new year your life in the new year you beginnings.
- 3. What was the high point of this past year? What was the low point of the past year?
- 4. If you could change anything about the past year, what would it be?
- 5. If you could choose for anything to happen in the upcoming year, what would it be?
- 6. Do you feel that you are closer to God now than you were a year ago? Why or why not?

Journal about your spiritual goals for the next year.

http://threethirtyministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/New-Years-Lesson-New-Beginnings.pdf



### Message

So it's a new year. I know it's been a tough one but I have been feeling rather blessed. blessings through the dark times. It really does improve your overall mental health. This season of li has really helped us to STOP and focus on what is really important, mostly because everything is gone. I don't know about you but I have thought a lot about what I am going t<del>o do when all this is over</del> I have learned to refocus on the important things and to wean out the things that take away my joy. think that is what both of our bible lessons are about today. In the children's lesson, Jesus is trying to help the rich man find his happiness. How many times have we heard from rich people how unhappy they are? How many extremely rich actors or musicians have given up on their lives? This rich man's focus is on the wrong things. Unfortunately the man doesn't trust Jesus and instead suffers in his grief Jesus' message in this parable is to focus on him and God and the things that that God will help us find that Joy. Jesus wasn't just telling this man to give up all the riches he loved and become a poor person to prove something. (I think a lot of people misunderstand this story.) He was telling him to stop obsessing over them and bringing yourself down. God has given us and knows our spiritual gifts. I think Jesus knew this man would be happier being a disciple. But it was too difficult for the man to trust God and let go. It reminds me of the movie Country Strong when the very rich and successful singer is the most miserable person in the room. The lesson the up and coming singer learns, is that he's much happier with a lot less money playing his music in smaller venues with people he loves.

The second lesson is about not wasting what God has given you. What do you want your life to look like? Who do you want to be? Who do you not want to be? The New Year is a reset- an opportunity to examine your life and make changes. So this week reflect on all that you've been given and on all that you have and decide how you're going to use those gifts. What goals do you have for your spiritual life? And all the while, know that you have your very own cheerleader who just wants you to be happy, successful, and desires more than anything to be in a relationship with you.



# Youth and Adult Wors https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG94KAxXNyk&list=PLiZE Fe7BgHiNF&index=165&ab\_channel=musicmeds INTO FAITH



## Benediction

You have been embraced by the leve of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit and blessed by Jesus to go into this world to offer healing and hope.

Go in peace. AMEN.

