

January 3rd, 2021

## Looking Back, Looking Forward

Pastor Billy Holden

Big Idea: Let's reflect on all that God has done over the last twelve months. We will remember God's work in our community, as well as how we have responded to him in baptism, discipleship, and more.

Intro: Innovations Mission & Values

#1 priority is for us to FOLLOW JESUS

love the 67%

we are FAMILY

TAKE RISKS

"It's NOT a competition"

be the church that the world needs to see

1. According to Gallup's latest poll on mental health, the ONLY CATEGORICAL POSITIVE INCREASE from 2019 to 2020 is found among those who attend weekly religious services.

**We have been changed in the past year by God's grace, in both challenging and joyful ways; remembering these things will empower us to move into the future.**

2. We weren't the first of God's People to be given a command.

1"You must love the Lord your God and always obey his requirements, decrees, regulations, and commands. 2Keep in mind that I am not talking now to your children, who have never experienced the discipline of the Lord your God or seen his greatness and his strong hand and powerful arm. 3They didn't see the miraculous signs and wonders he performed in Egypt against Pharaoh and all his land. 4They didn't see what the Lord did to the armies of Egypt and to their horses and chariots—how he drowned them in the Red Sea as they were chasing you. He destroyed them, and they have not recovered to this very day! 5Your children didn't see how the Lord cared for you in the wilderness until you arrived here. 6They didn't see what he did to Dathan and Abiram (the sons of Eliab, a descendant of Reuben) when the earth opened its mouth in the Israelite camp and swallowed them, along with their households and tents and every living thing that belonged to them. 7But you have seen the Lord perform all these mighty deeds with your own eyes!

18"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 19Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.

Closing - Whats your stone?

12Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means "the stone of help"), for he said, "Up to this point the Lord has helped us!"

"Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.