

Beyond Sunday  
January 5 2014  
REfocus  
Pastor Mike Meade

**Reflect:**

What are you looking for out of 2014? As you have reflected on the past year what emotions come to mind? Thoughts of accomplishment, joy and happiness? Or thoughts of despair, hoping you had done better, or wishing you could erase 2013 all together. The New Year has a way of making us think and wonder what we could have done different. Proverbs 16:9 says: "The heart of man plans his way, but The Lord establishes his steps." What could 2014 look like if we put all of our trust in God and walked in his will?

**Direct:**

- Which one of these best describes you moving into the new year: A Towering Oak? Weeping Willow? Tumbleweed? Crab Apple Tree? Explain your choice.

**Read John 15:1-8**

- What two words reoccur over and over in the above verses? How would you define the words abide and fruit in context with these passages?
- Verse 5 says: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."
- As we move into 2014 how can you abide in him and bear more fruit this year?
- **Leader Note: This is much more than making a New Years resolution that will last a few weeks, for some this may mean making a complete life overhaul. Answers here could range from very simple to very complex.**

**Read Galatians 2:20**

- For us to be successful in true change we must quit trying so hard and start letting Jesus live His life through us. (Pastor Mike)
- Where do you see people living in the world where Christ is living through them versus them living with a little bit of Jesus or no Jesus?
- How does your own life reflect the above question?

**Deeper:**

**Read 2 Timothy 3:16**

- What does Paul say about the origin and purpose of scripture?
- How does your perception and understanding of what scripture is relate to Paul's definition of scripture?
- On Sunday Pastor Mike challenged the church with a 90 Day reading plan. (The plan can be found on Youversion under "The Essential 100" or

printed out at the info counter.) What are your goals for 2014 when it comes to reading the Bible? Share with your group.

- Spend some time praying over these goals and discussing how your group will keep each other accountable and on track.