

As Christmas approaches and 2025 comes to an end, we wanted to take a night of small groups to reflect on the past year. We're going to pause our study of John's gospel. Tonight's lesson will be a few verses to meditate on and a few questions to work through together.

## Looking Back

Psalms 77:11-12, ***"I will remember the works of the Lord; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds."*** One of the most important commands in the Bible is for God's people to REMEMBER His word and His works. See how the Psalmist remembers the works and wonders of the Lord. He takes time to meditate on what God has done. Also notice how this remembering and meditation leads to talking about God's work.

One of the most important things the Holy Spirit does is cause us to remember the words of Christ. We just saw this recently in our study of John. ***"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."*** (John 14:26). This was spoken to the apostles - but it's surely something the Holy Spirit does for all of His people.

**Discussion Question:** What are some highlights of God's work in your life this past year? What verses have impacted you the most? What trials has God helped you through? How has He answered your prayers? Take some time to remember, meditate, and talk about God's deeds.

## Looking Ahead

Philippians 3:12-14, ***"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."***

Paul tells us that Christianity has a very forward looking orientation. He purposes in his heart to FORGET those things which are behind as he PRESSES ON towards what lies ahead. As much as we must never forget the works of the Lord that are behind us - we also must not live in the past. God gives us strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.

Consider the forward looking nature of Hebrews 12:1-2: ***"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."***

**Discussion Question:** What are some things you are prayerfully pursuing this upcoming year? What do you want to see unfold in your walk with the Lord? What are some things that you're focused on as you press on? Take some time to commit these things to the Lord in prayer together.