

THIS IS MY YEAR

. . . I promise

INTRODUCTION

The New Year is full of possibilities that fuel the potential for a better future. That's why we make resolutions . . . even though those resolutions often fall by the wayside. But there's something simple you can do to make the most of this year. It begins by looking past what you think is possible to what God thinks is possible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What part of Sunday's message stood out to you? Was there anything you disagreed with? Anything that encouraged you?

“Possibility is the fuel for potentially a better future, a better year, even a better you.”

-Are you a dreamer or a realist? How does that tendency influence the way you view the year ahead?

-What do you think keeps people from dreaming? What about from accomplishing a dream? How about you?

Read: Galatians 5:22-23

Context: *Paul wrote a letter to a group of Christians in a city called Galatia. There was a battle going on between wanting to do what's right and doing what is not right, they were struggling doing the right thing. Paul wrote to them in this battle and encouraged them with the reality that when God's presence is in one's life, God gives us the power of His presence, the Holy Spirit.*

- How do you relate to the struggles of the early church in Galatia to do the right thing?
- As a group, discuss what each fruit of the Spirit looks like (hint: there's 9 of them).
- Take a few minutes to encourage one another by sharing which of these fruits you see in each others lives.
- How does God want to make a difference in your life in 2017? Which fruit of the Spirit stands out to you as the one to focus on this year?
- Read 2 Timothy 1:7. What are 3 things the Holy Spirit gives us to accomplish his purpose in our lives? How does that help us in the midst of fear?
- What does God think is possible for you in the New Year?

MOVING FORWARD

Ask your group, or a close circle of friends, which fruit of the Spirit should be yours to focus on this year. Imagine how your life, relationships, even work will be different if you let yourself grow in that area throughout this year. Even if you believe that kind of growth isn't possible, your heavenly Father says it is. You can trust Him.

LIVE IT OUT

Memorize: Learn Galatians 5:22-23

Journaling: This week, list out the things that stand in the way of you accomplishing what God sees as possible in your life. Then, talk to God. As you do, ask God to help you live in the power of his strength in 2017 in order to have victory over these barriers.

Prayer: Take time this week to ask God which fruit of the Spirit you need to work on this year.

Accountability: Ask some people from your group and/or people you trust “what is it like to be on the other side of me?” and ask them which fruit of the Spirit you should focus on this year.