

January 6, 2023



---

## Bethel 2023 Scripture Memory Journey

In 2023 our Bethel faith family is embarking on a journey of memorizing scripture together. Over the twelve months of 2023, Bethel adults will memorize Romans chapter 8 and Bethel Kids will memorize Psalm 139. It is our hope that through memorizing scripture together we will grow closer to God and closer to one another as we grasp God's story together!

There are many places in the Bible that speak of our need to memorize scripture (Colossians 3:16; Deuteronomy 6:4-9). Memorizing scripture transforms our minds and lives, help us live in obedience, and avoid temptation. Jesus memorized scripture! Memorizing scripture also helps us know God better and understand God's will and activity in our lives and our world.

Why memorize a whole chapter over a whole year? While it is good to memorize key scriptures throughout the Bible, memorizing a chapter offers additional benefit. Memorizing a chapter often draws us deeper into the author's thoughts and provides context for individual verses. Additionally, memorizing a chapter over a year provides time to think and process the scripture allowing the text to sink into our hearts and transform our lives. Our Bethel faith family will do this together using the same translation (CSB) so that we can encourage and sharpen one another throughout 2023.

We have created a scripture memory plan with our target verses for each month. The scripture memory plan and memory cards will be available on our website, <https://bethelnj.org/mem-2023>, digitally and in print in the Bethel office. Additionally, Al San Miguel has loaded the verses into the Bible Memory App. You will find the verses in the "Bethel Church North Platte" group. Al has found the Bible Memory App to be very beneficial having used it with AWANA and Every Man a Warrior. Here is the link to the Bible Memory App: <https://biblememory.com/>. Here is the link to the Bethel Church Group: <https://biblememory.com/group/app/0b184cb1a9/>.

- Pastor Jim -

---



### **God's Story SHAPES US! | Sundays beginning January 15th, 10:45 a.m.**

God's story says you are "wonderfully complex." You are God's one-of-a-kind creation, and God created you with a purpose! This course is a journey into God's Word to discover how He has designed you and called you to serve. We will take an in-depth look at your SHAPE for ministry and help you get connected inside and outside the church. Taught by Pastor Jim Strecker.

### **Wise Stewardship | Sundays beginning January 15th, 10:45 a.m.**

The Bible speaks plentifully on the topic of money and stewardship. Good stewardship is a key component of a growing Christian life. Through this course, you will learn God's heart concerning money, time, and resources and how to apply biblical wisdom to your life. Taught by Greg Wilke.

---



## January 8th, 2023 The Gathering - "We are Better Together"

Everyone is invited to The Gathering!

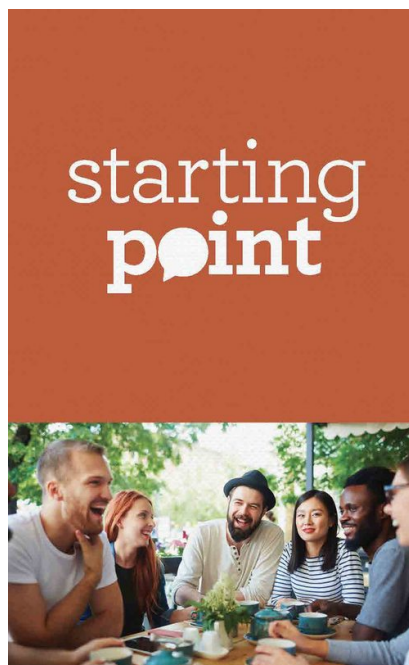
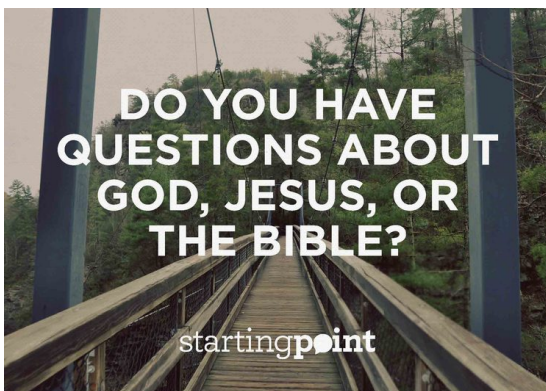


The Gathering is a time for all our Bethel faith family to gather and celebrate our Connect Groups! Connect Groups at Bethel are one of the most important ways that we connect and grow in our faith together. Connect Groups are also the perfect place for you to live life together with people who genuinely love and care about each other!

The Gathering is a time to celebrate what God is doing at Bethel through our Connect Groups, to deepen our relationships with our Bethel faith family, to invite others to join a Connect Group, or to check out joining a different group.

Please plan on joining us at The Gathering on January 8th, 2023, from 6-7:30 pm for dessert, celebrating God, and connecting!

## Starting Point | Wednesdays beginning January 11th, 6:30 - 8 p.m.



You've come  
to the right place.

Church might not seem like the best place to voice your doubts or ask your questions about God. But we think it should be.

STARTING POINT is an 8-week conversation where you can discuss the questions or concerns you have about faith —free from pressure and judgment.

**Join Any Time!**

Wednesdays 6:30-8 starting January 11th

Contact Pastor Jim at [jim@betheln.org](mailto:jim@betheln.org)

<https://betheln.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1573687>