

# St. John Baptist Church Newsletter



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stjohnbaptistvance.com



## *Lessons from new beginnings in the Bible*

<https://thefaithspace.com/new-beginnings-in-the-bible/>

*As a new school year begins, so does opportunities to learn from new beginnings in the Bible....*

Examples of new beginnings in the Bible are plenty. From start to finish, the Scriptures tell us stories of real people with real issues.

We can learn a great deal from them about what to do when God gives you a new beginning.

Studying the stories of new beginnings in the Bi-

ble is one of the best ways to get ideas on how to move forward with God.

***When God gives you a new beginning,  
give yourself a new start too***

The first lesson about new beginnings in the Bible comes from the life of David.

David is popular in the Scriptures for being a man after God's heart. But his life wasn't all peaches just because God thought this way about him.

David was a warrior. An extraordinary one too. The number of men he slaughtered in battle disqualified him from building the temple God desired for Israel to build.

David was also a womanizer. He stole another man's wife (Bathsheba), forced himself on her, got her pregnant and then tried to pin the pregnancy on her husband.

When that wouldn't work, he concocted a

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plan to have Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, murdered.

Then he married the woman to try and cover his tracks. I tell you, the Bible has all the soap opera you will ever need.

But despite all that and more, David was never afraid to start over with God.

Each time he began afresh, he would repent and pray. Then he would walk away in freedom.

David didn't seem to walk around being burdened by guilt.

*The Lord has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord; I am not guilty of turning from my God. All his laws are before me; I have not turned away from his decrees. I have been blameless before him and have kept myself from sin. The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight.*

God sees you as a brand new person once you've made the decision to start over.

It's kind of like you moving to a whole new country where nobody knows you or anything about you.

Once you've turned a new leaf with God, don't walk in guilt and fear. **God has your back.**

Walk in confidence that God does not hold your past against you. If God has given you a second chance, you should probably give yourself one too.

You don't have the right to judge yourself.

If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. **1 John 3:20**

***When God gives you a new beginning, forget about those who will not give you a second chance***

The second lesson about new beginnings in the Bible comes from the life of the apostle Paul.

It was no secret. He might have changed his name but people already knew his resume.

The apostle Paul was known for the persecution of those who believed in Jesus.

He traveled far and wide to do this work. He held the clothes of those who stoned to death the early Jesus-believers. The very mention of his name made people shiver.

But now he was claiming to be a Jesus-believer himself. He became what he was trying to kill.

His was an overnight conversion it appeared. He has one of the most profound stories of new beginnings in the Bible.

In fact, his story was quite unbelievable. Nobody believed that he wanted to preach about the same Jesus whom he did not believe in a few days ago.



## Celebrating National Wellness Month In August



### Physical Wellness

Listening to and taking care of your body for optimal health and functioning. Taking care of your physical body will help you manage the daily stresses of life.

- Walk
- Dance
- Play
- Take a class
- Good sleep hygiene
- Cook more often

### Mental Wellness

A state of well-being in which the individual realizes their own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to contribute to their community.

- Mindfulness
- Meditation
- Stress management
- Self-compassion
- Clean/enhance spaces

### Emotional Wellness

The ability to successfully handle life's stresses and adapt to change.

- Journal
- Color
- Talk
- Coping skills
- Therapy

### Spiritual Wellness

Having a sense of purpose and meaning in life, including one's morals and ethics. It may or may not involve religious activities.

- Time Alone
- Prayer
- Nature
- Create a sacred space

### Social Wellness

Refers to the relationships we have and how we interact with others.

- Boundaries
- Support System
- Limit social media intake
- Have Fun

### Intellectual Wellness

Recognizing one's creative abilities and finding ways to expand knowledge and skills.

- Watch a documentary
- Visit a museum
- Take a class
- Read a book



# Member Spotlight

## Congratulations to...

...Jihan Shaw!!! Jihan spent her summer break in Memphis attending the Young Actors Guild Performing Arts Camp. This year's theme was "Colors of Soul." The culminating show was held on July 19th at The Cannon Center. One of 176 performers, Jihan and cast-mates did an excellent job.

Jihan has enjoyed her summer, and will be heading to Dallas, Texas, on August 9th.

Let us all pray for her as she prepares for middle school as a 6th grader.

Jihan is the great-niece of **Juanita Robinson**.

From Page 2 **FOOD**

*When God gives you a new beginning, accept God's forgiveness and gifts*

Nobody would accept the new Paul. Nobody would allow him the opportunity to show he deserved a new start. They held up his past sins before, unwilling to let him forget who he once was.

This new purpose for his life was in limbo. For him to accomplish it, he had to ignore those who didn't believe he had been converted. In fact, he kind of told them off.

<sup>13</sup> *For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. <sup>14</sup> I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. <sup>15</sup> But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup> to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. <sup>17</sup> I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus. (Galatians 1:13-17, NIV)*

If you find yourself in a situation like Paul's, move on with your life. Don't live in the past just because others keep reminding you of it.

When they come wanting to talk, let them know politely that you appreciate them sharing but you no longer live in that place therefore you genuinely do not have the time or space to entertain them.

This next lesson about new beginnings in the Bible comes from what is maybe the most popular parable in Scripture.

Jesus tells a parable about a father and his two sons. One day his younger son asks him for his share of the inheritance. He couldn't wait until his father was dead. He wanted it now.

His dad handed over what was his and he went off to live a wild life. Soon after, all his money dried up.

All his friends left him. Then a famine broke out and he was starving. Just when he was about to eat the food of pigs he was hired to feed, he realized that he had a choice.

He didn't have to live the way he was living.

His father's servants had so much luxury. Why couldn't he at least benefit from that. He decided to return home and ask his father to allow him to be a slave in his house.

But when he returned home, he got a shocking welcome. Not only was his father overjoyed to see him but, immediately, his father threw a feast of epic proportions and had him robed like a king. His brother wasn't happy and expressed that he did not deserve it.

God treats you the same way when he gives you a new start. He restores you completely. All that you have lost he gives back to you. The



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# GIANT

## Back to School

### Word Search

**DIRECTIONS:** Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

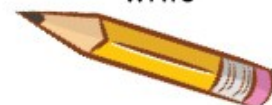
Answer  
Arithmetic  
Art  
Assignment  
Backpack  
Binder  
Biology  
Blackboard  
Cafeteria  
Calculator  
Chair  
Chemistry  
Clock  
Compass  
Crayon  
Curriculum  
Desk  
Dictionary  
Drama  
Dress Code  
Education  
Eraser  
Exam  
Folder  
Friend  
Geography  
Globe  
Glue  
Grade  
Gymnasium  
Highlighter  
History  
Kindergarten  
Language  
Learn  
Lesson  
Library  
Listen  
Lunchbox

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Map  
Marker  
Math  
Music  
Notebook  
Open House  
Paper  
Pencil  
Physics  
Principal  
Protractor  
Pupil

Question  
Read  
Recess  
Respect  
Ruler  
Schedule  
School Bus  
Science  
Scissors  
Sharpener  
Silence  
Stapler

Student  
Subject  
Tape  
Teacher  
Test  
Textbook  
Tutor  
Uniform  
Write



## BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Dear God, we pray for your blessing and favor today over our teachers, our kids, and our schools. Please allow your face to shine on them today, be gracious to them Lord. Fill them with your Spirit and light; and give them peace in every circumstance. We know that every gift and blessing come straight from your hand. We will not take it for granted. Remind us today of your great love and care over all those we love. We thank you, Lord, that you work powerfully on our behalf, and we commit our ways to you. May each purpose and plan you have for our teachers, succeed, flourish, and prosper in every way.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Debbie McDaniel



From Page 5 **FOOD**

question is: do you accept it?

You see, there is this thing called imposter syndrome. It's when you feel like you don't deserve all the blessings you have received in return for all the work you've done or the decisions you have made.

This son wanted to decrease his value in his father's sight but his father never saw him that way.

Here he was ready to live beneath his privilege. Ready to be a slave to his past. Ready to live the rest of his life under judgment. His father wouldn't have it. He gave him a brand new beginning, celebrating the fact that he had come to his senses.

You deserve the blessing of that new job, your successful business, that promotion, that scholarship, that grant, that husband, those children, that new car, the degree, that house.

People will try to make you feel like you don't deserve it or like you don't belong. What they think shouldn't concern you.

Whatever it is, you belong to the blessing because God doesn't hold your mistakes or humble beginnings against you. So own them. They are yours to enjoy.

***When God gives you a new beginning, grab your new start with both hands***

New beginnings in the Bible sometimes applies to entire families and communities or whole nations! This next lesson about starting over comes from the Israelites.

For hundreds of years God promised to release the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Moses was born to fulfill that purpose.

When the time had come, God released them in a dramatic showdown which culminated at the Red Sea.

Now it was time for them to claim and occupy the promised land which God said would be flowing with milk and honey.

In other words, it was a place in which they could live in complete freedom, they would have more than they needed to live on and eat from.

Yet, when they got there, look at what happened:

*Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it. But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to*





# August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Sunday Services	4	5 Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study	6	7 Sunday School Evening Svc	8	9 Laverne Summerise
10 Sunday Services	11	12 Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study	13	14 Sunday School Evening Svc	15	16
17 Sunday Services	18	19 Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study Beulah Rankin, Elaine Smith	20 Diane Johnson	21 Sunday School Evening Svc	22 Betty B. Smith	23
24 Sunday Services	25	26 Prayer Mtg/ Bible Study	27	28 Sunday School Evening Svc	29	30
31 Sunday Services						

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them.” (Numbers 13:30-33)

This particular story about new beginnings in the Bible has so many practical applications.

God had all but given them the land on a silver platter. Even though they had to fight, the victory was already theirs before the first sword was drawn.

But they allowed fear and negative thinking to take over.

Because of their attitude, God told them to turn back and go to the desert. This is how they ended up in the wilderness for 40 years, walking around in circles!

It had taken them two weeks to get to Canaan but it took them 4 decades to enter!

When God gives you an opportunity to start a new life, grasped it with all you have in you. Hold on to it with confidence. Don't allow the

appearance of the situation to frighten you away from your blessings.

Otherwise, it might take you longer to accomplish what God has set out to do for you and in you. Lots of wasted years.

You will have to work hard and fight just like the Israelites eventually had to do. But you are not alone. The blessing of your new beginning is beyond the battle. God promises his comfort for hard times and his victory for your battles.

you to move forward. That's it. Someone said you should never waste your time looking back because that's not the direction you're moving towards. They were right.

Your old life is gone and new has come. God says you are new. And that's all you need to know.

For more lessons, please see  
<https://thefaithspace.com/new-beginnings-in-the-bible/>



From Page 4 **SPOTLIGHT**



Association choir were  
cates of Appreciation  
Program Coordinator.

## ***Congratulations to...***

*...Yvette Cobb, Garnett Gray and Vanessa Gray!!!* Mrs. Cobb and Mrs. G. Gray were participants in the West Tennessee Baptist, Missionary and Education Association Choir that performed at the Annual Musical kicking off a week of learning at the 141st Annual Session. Mrs. V. Gray, Association Secretary, along with members of the presented with Certifi- by Mrs. Anna Waters,

June was Youth Month, at ***St. John***. While our Youth numbers are small, let's show our support by contributing \$50 for the Youth of ***St. John!!!***



***St. John***, your House Committee is in need of Volunteers!!! If you would like to join the House Committee, please see ***Trustee Chair Alisa G Petty***.

The Newsletter is published by the Newsletter staff of ***St. John Baptist Church***, 640 Vance Avenue, Memphis, TN 38126, (901) 525-1097. Bro. George Tubbs, Chairman of Deacon Board; Sis. Alisa Y. Petty, Chairman of Trustee Board; Sis. Aleasa R. Rankin, Editor and staff.

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