CONVERSATION STARTERS
JANUARY 6, 2019

This is a guide to help start a conversation about this week's service. Feel free to pick, choose, re-order and adapt as you see fit. You know your group best and can facilitate their experience by modifying as necessary.

ICE-BREAKERS

1. Watch Google's "Year in Search" video for 2018. What was your most defining event of last year?

2. What is your take on New Year's resolutions? If you've made them in the past, have they been helpful and/or successful? If not, why not? Has anyone made firm resolutions for this year?

REVIEW

1. You may want to watch this week's message as a refresher. Or, try picking a spot with 10-15 minutes to go to review the main application(s). Messages are found at southridgechurch.ca/messages.

2. Feel free to try one or two of these: What did you hear in this week's message? What ideas stood out? What did you agree with? Disagree with? What questions came to mind? How did it make you feel?

REFLECT

1. Read Proverbs 1:1-6. The author cites a list of "benefits" or "life improvements" to be gained through these proverbs. As you begin a new year, which one of these improvements most resonates with you? What part of your life would benefit most by growing in this way?

2. Read Proverbs 1:7. What did you learn about "the fear of the Lord" through this message? How does this change the way you think about building a relationship with God?

3. Read Romans 12:1 in The Message translation. What would it look like to love God more in the midst of our "everyday, ordinary lives"? Can you think of someone you know who seems to do this really well?

RESPOND

1. As a group, revisit the closing exercise from Sunday's service. Ask yourself: Where am I at in my spiritual life these days? How well am I doing at putting God at the centre of my life? Draw a hash mark on the scale below, between 0-10, to visualize the state of your spiritual well-being.

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0 10
(passionate, devoted) (passive, disinterested)

Assuming we all have room to grow, rather than focusing on the placement of your mark, focus on the gap between where we are and where we sense God leading us, because the thing that matters more than where we are is what it's going to take to move closer to where we want to be. Share with each other where you find yourself and what step(s) you want to commit to taking in 2019 to close the gap.