

## Year in the Bible

### 1. What's the Year in the Bible?

As a church, we're planning to read the whole Bible together in a year through a custom-designed reading plan for our church. Each Sunday, we'll preach from a passage in that week's reading. We'll invite our Life Groups to align their focus with this, and we'll produce a bundle of resources to help enrich the experience for our entire church family.

### 2. Why is Central doing Year in the Bible in 2026?

We believe the Bible is the true story that changes lives. We're committed to the Word of God as a church. At the same time, many Christians have never read the Bible cover to cover (a recent nationwide survey indicated only 35% of frequent churchgoers have). There's power in reading Scripture, and something even more powerful about working through it together. We believe if you give one year of your life to going all in on God's Word, you'll never be the same.

### 3. How do I participate?

First, follow along the reading plan, which you'll be able to find on our website. The plan works through the Bible six days a week in around 12 min a day. We'll also have an abbreviated reading plan for families and kids and also to help any who fall behind use this to catch up. Second, join Central on Sundays as we do a deep dive from a particular passage in that week's reading. Third, listen to our weekly Podcast *Learning the Word*. Each Monday, Pastor Phillip and Pastor Daniel will preview that week's reading in a short podcast you can listen to on your drive to work. Fourth, discuss the weekly reading in your Life Groups and in your families. We'll provide helps to make that easier and more beneficial.

### 4. What if I fall behind?

Life happens, and perfection isn't the goal. So don't worry. One great way to catch up is to read the abbreviated sections in the Highlights Plan. Alternatively, you can forget what you've missed and pick up in the plan where it's out.

### 5. What is the best Bible to use?

As a church, we preach out of the English Standard Version (ESV), but there are many faithful translations available. The ESV Study Bible is an incredible resource, and we have copies available for purchase in our bookstore.

### 6. Can I listen to an audiobook version of the reading plan?

Yes! We've partnered with the Dwell app as a gift for our members to be able to access our reading plan and listen to the daily readings. We'll provide details on how to access it as the new year approaches.

### 7. How can my entire family participate?

We've developed an abbreviated reading plan, called the Highlights Plan, that is short enough to read together over meals, or for children to read shorter sections. Our age-graded ministries will

also produce materials throughout the year to help our kids and students be a part of the journey.

**8. When does it start?**

The reading plan launches January 1, 2026 and will end the week before Christmas.

**Oakwell Academy**

**1. What are we planning to do?**

Central is planning to lease space in our Kids Wing and Family Life Center to Oakwell Academy for three days a week during school hours for them to host their classes on our campus. Doing this allows the church to promote Christian education and serve families and our broader community all the while leveraging our facility to generate revenue.

**2. What is Oakwell Academy?**

Oakwell is a classical, Christian, university-model school completing its tenth year. They currently serve over 280 students from 37 local churches and are projected to grow to 450 by 2030.

**3. Why partner with Oakwell?**

Oakwell is a distinctly Christian school that aligns with our church's mission and vision. Central has the unique capacity to help meet our community's growing need for Christian education with thousands of square feet of premium space that goes unused during the week. Bottom line: Hosting Oakwell would allow us to be part of the needed solution for Christian education and generate revenue for the church, without inconvenience or diverting us from our mission.

**4. What does the partnership involve?**

Central would lease space in the Family Life Center and Kids Wing for Oakwell's classes three days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 6:30am-4:00pm) beginning in Fall 2026.

**5. Will this change things at Central?**

No. The school meets only on the day on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. They will not use rooms during regular ministry times, and all our rooms will remain fully available. Not only that, but the rooms will look the same as they do now. Most will have no idea a school meets here.

**6. Won't this increase wear and tear on our building?**

Our agreement more than covers the cost to cover wear and tear on the building, and will also offset maintenance, utilities, and long-term upgrades.

**7. Will the rooms look different?**

No. All rooms used for adult Life Groups will be returned to their normal setup each week. While some limited storage may be added for the school's use, classrooms will not be decorated or personalized by Oakwell.

**8. What about safety and security?**

We may add some fencing, keycards, or additional cameras. We want to ensure that we are providing a safe facility for these students to learn.

**9. When will the church make a final decision?**

We'll make a final decision at our Central Family Celebration on November 19.

## Salt Network

### 1. What are we planning to do?

Central has been invited to join a national network of churches within the Southern Baptist Convention that have adopted a wildly-successful, joint strategy to reach college students and plant churches. Our pastors are enthusiastic about the partnership opportunity and its potential.

### 2. What is the Salt Network?

The Salt Network is a family of churches within the SBC that works to reach university campuses through local churches and plant new churches in university towns. It includes more than 40 churches, 200 staff, and 23,000 students involved in Salt Company gatherings. In 2024 alone, there were over 2,100 baptisms in churches across the network.

### 3. Why is Central partnering with SALT?

Three main reasons. First, our mission—our community is home to 80,000 students within miles of our church and Central has a long history of discipling college students. Second, the Salt Network's proven effectiveness—this network has proven itself as the most biblically-faithful and missionally-effective group reaching college students in the country. Third, our church-planting ambitions—partnering with Salt helps us connect us to a group with a thoughtful, strategic, and well-funded approach to church planting.

### 4. What will change at Central?

Most people will notice nothing different. The most visible change is we will rebrand our college ministry (currently "One80") and call it The Salt Company, which is what all the other churches in the network do. The other so-called changes are all invisible and beneficial, mainly a significant expansion of our resources, training, and mission impact.

### 5. Will Central still make its own decisions?

Yes. We remain fully independent. We hire our staff, make decisions as a church, and do everything as we do at present. Being a part of this group of like-minded churches, we receive ideas, support, and a great deal of momentum that aids our college ministry and planting efforts.

### 6. Is there a financial commitment?

We will contribute a small percentage of our budget to support network-wide college ministry and church planting. All the churches in the network do this. In return, though, Central and our future church plants will receive back significant resources and support.

### 7. What's the timeline?

The Salt Company Texas A&M will officially kickoff beginning in Fall 2026.

## Harvest Church

### 1. What are we planning to do?

After two years of prayer and discussion about how and where to plant a church, we are preparing to send Patrick McGinty—our College Director—to plant a new church in 2026 called Harvest Church, here in Byran-College Station.

**2. Why are we planting locally?**

We're planting in general because church planting is one of the most effective ways to reach new people for Christ. We're planting here in Bryan-College Station in particular because there is a surprising and significant need. [A recent study](#) showed that Bryan-College Station has about 1,317 people per church, a density similar to secular states like Oregon and Washington.

**3. How are Central Church and Harvest Church related?**

Central is planning to invest in the formation of Harvest Church. but Harvest will be a fully independent Southern Baptist church. In other words, Harvest will be a like-minded, sister church, not be a "campus" of Central but rather its own church with its own leadership.

**4. What does Harvest Church believe?**

Harvest Church is a Southern Baptist Church with a similar faith and practice as ours, taking Central's What We Believe page and adapting it to be theirs also.

**5. How is this related to the Salt Network?**

It isn't. The Salt Network partners with only one church in a given area to target a local university. Central will become the Salt Network church for our area, and Harvest will be a separate plant launched out of Central.

**6. Who will lead Harvest Church?**

Our College Director Patrick McGinty, who has faithfully led our college ministry for four years and has a heart for seeing the lost in BCS reached. Central's pastors will provide coaching and accountability during the launch phase.

**7. Who will lead Central's college ministry?**

We'll soon begin the search for a new College Director—who will be called our Salt Director moving forward. Patrick will continue leading the college ministry through much of the spring and will help ensure a smooth transition as a new director steps into the role.