

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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Handout: 4/9
Study: 4/16

COME
FIND WHAT YOU DESIRE IN JESUS

GROWTH GUIDE

Come to Jesus and Find Hope

The word "hope" in ordinary English vocabulary is generally distinguished from certainty. We would say, "I don't know what's going to happen, but I *hope* it happens."

When you read the word "hope" in the Bible (like in 1 Peter 1:13—"set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ"), hope is not wishful thinking. It's not, "I don't know if it's going to happen, but I *hope* it happens." That's absolutely *not* what is meant by Christian hope.

Christian hope is when God has promised that something is going to happen and you put your trust in that promise. Christian hope is a confidence that something will come to pass because God has promised it will come to pass.

Hope is a portion or part of faith. Faith and hope, in my mind, are overlapping realities: hope is faith in the future tense. So most of faith is hope.

The Bible says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). This implies that hope, like faith, is also strengthened by the Word of God. Hope comes from reading His precious and very great promises and looking to Christ who purchased them.

I would sum it up like this: The most important verse in the Bible for me, probably, is Romans 8:32: "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

Now that last part is hope producing! But it's grounded in the rock-solid statement that "God didn't spare his own son."

So the essence of what we look to in the Bible to build our hope is, what has Christ done for me in my sinful condition that enables me to know that I will not come in to judgment and condemnation and that all things are working together for my good? And the answer is that Christ died for me, rose again for me, and therefore all the promises of God are yes in him.

So let's look away from the circumstances that confront us, look to Christ, look to the promises, and hold fast to them. Hope comes from the promises of God rooted in the work of Christ.

John Piper, desiringgod.org.

KEY VERSE

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” (Luke 19:5, NKJV)

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Read Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus, but Jesus sought a deeper encounter with him.

What was his reaction when Jesus asked him to come down out of the tree?

Have you ever gotten lost before?

How did you feel when you found your way?

Tuesday: Read Matthew 19:16-22

Yesterday, we read about Zacchaeus, a rich tax collector who was changed by his encounter with Jesus. Today, we read about another rich man’s encounter with Jesus.

What are some differences between the two men and their encounters with Jesus?

Is there anything in your life that is coming between you and Jesus?

Wednesday: Read Romans 8:31-39

Worldly hope is wishing for something to happen, but biblical hope is confident expectation of God’s promises.

What are some promises in this passage for those who believe in Jesus?

How does the death and resurrection of Jesus give us hope?

Thursday: Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

What is the believer born into?

What are some promises in this passage for those who believe in Jesus?

When you think about all that God has done for you, do you greatly rejoice? Are you “filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy” (vs. 8)?

Do you thank God for the hope we have in Jesus?

Friday: Read Matthew 7:24-27

What is your hope built upon? Consider the lyrics from the Hymn, “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less,” by Edward Mote. This Easter season, let’s put our hope and trust in Jesus alone.

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
In Him, my righteousness, alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]