

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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Growth Track
Take Your Next Step
Growth Guide

Handout: 8/13/2017
Study: 8/20/2017

Grow By Belonging

You are called to belong, not just believe. Even in the perfect, sinless environment of Eden, God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone”(Genesis 2:18a NIV).

We are created for community, fashioned for fellowship, and formed for a family, and none of us can fulfill God’s purposes by ourselves. The Bible knows nothing of solitary saints or spiritual hermits isolated from other believers and deprived of fellowship.

The Bible says we are put together, joined together, built together, members together, heirs together, fitted together, and held together and will be caught up together (1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 2:21-22, 3:6, 4:16; Colossians 2:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:17). **You’re not on your own anymore!**

While your relationship to Christ is personal, God never intends it to be private. In God’s family you are connected to every other believer, and we will belong to each other for eternity. The Bible says, “In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others” (Romans 12:5).

Following Christ includes belonging, not just believing. We are members of his Body — the Church. C. S. Lewis noted that the word “membership” is of Christian origin, but the world has emptied it of its original meaning. Stores offer discounts to “members,” and advertisers use member names to create mailing lists. In churches, membership is often reduced to simply adding your name to a roll, with no requirements or expectations.

To Paul, being a “member” of the church meant being a vital organ of a living body, an indispensable, interconnected part of the Body of Christ. We need to recover and practice the biblical meaning of membership. The church is a body, not a building; an organism, not an organization (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 6:15, 12:12-27).

God’s purposes for his church are identical to his five purposes for you. Worship helps you focus on God; fellowship helps you face life’s problems; discipleship helps fortify your faith; ministry helps find your talents; power helps fulfill your mission. **There is nothing else on Earth like the church!**

By Rick Warren

KEY VERSE

Acts 2:41

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Acts 2:14-41

Introduction

Where do you feel like you most belong? What place or group do you struggle to belong?

From this passage (focusing on vs. 37-41), what steps did people take in order to belong to God and to the early church?

Tuesday: Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 8:14-17

Belong to God as his Child

What does it mean to be a child of God?

Who made it possible for us to be children of God?

Why is faith in Jesus as your Savior necessary to be a child of God?

How can we have assurance that we belong to God?

Wednesday: Ephesians 2:4-10; Romans 10:9

Belong by Putting Your Faith in Jesus Christ

How does a person receive salvation and become part of the body of Christ?

If someone asked you how to receive salvation, how would you counsel them?

Thursday: Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16

Belong to Your Local Church Through Baptism

Have you been baptized before?

What was your baptism experience?

How does baptism identify us with Christ and the local church?

How is Jesus' baptism a model for us?

Friday: Psalm 133; Proverbs 27:17

Belong to a Group for Growth and Fellowship

Do you have believers in your life who know you and know what is happening in your life?

How can you connect on a personal level to your brothers and sisters here at Capital Baptist Church?

Do you belong to a Growth Group?

How may God be leading you to grow in the area of belonging to him or the church?