

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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Be A World Changer
GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 7/16/2017
Study: 7/23/17

Going For Disciples

In describing the purpose statement of the church, many people point to Christ’s instruction in the Great Commission to “make disciples of all the nations” (Matthew 28:19).

But depending on whom you ask, you might find a wide variety of interpretations regarding what it actually means to “make disciples.” Most churches today understand it as a command to evangelize the world—to lead people to faith and repentance in every corner of the world and spread the gospel as far as possible.

And while there is certainly an evangelistic aspect to Christ’s command, His instructions go beyond just spreading the gospel. The verb translated as “make disciples”—*mathēteuō*—is beautifully complex, carrying more meaning than simply accumulating converts. It communicates the idea of a learning believer—someone who is growing in his faith and his love for the Lord.

Jesus’ words emphasize not the moment of salvation but the lifetime of sanctification that follows. He made the same point in John 8:31 when He said, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.” It’s the difference between a one-time profession of faith and a lifetime of spiritual growth and increasing godliness—between counterfeit and genuine conversion.

But if the mission of the church is to make growing, learning believers in all nations, why do many congregations limit their efforts to filling seats—often by meeting felt needs with worldly gimmicks? That strategy might attract non-believers, but how does it promote the spiritual growth of the believers already in their midst? How can you stress the vital importance of sanctification when you’re aggressively chasing the trends and interests of a spiritually bankrupt world?

Too many popular preachers and churches today claim they’re not interested in reaching believers—that their sermons and services are intended solely for unsaved seekers. They even actively discourage believers who want to dig deeper into the riches of Scripture—who hunger for more than just the most basic elements of the gospel, if they’re even getting that much.

But those churches have little hope of ever prompting people past the moment of salvation into a life of sanctification. In fact, they’re far more likely to lead men and women to shallow faith, stunted spiritual growth, and, sadly, false conversion.

As defined by Christ’s command to His disciples, the purpose of the church is to make learning believers—men and women whose lives reflect a deep commitment to and love for the Lord, His Word, and His people. Are you actively helping your congregation grow in this clear and critical purpose for the church?

(John MacArthur)

KEY VERSE

Matthew 28:19

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 28:18-20

Introduction

What do you think of when you hear the word authority?

Are all Christians called to share the gospel? Why or why not?

Tuesday: Matthew 28:18; Philippians 2:5-11

Authority

What does it mean to you that Jesus has authority over everything?

If we are commanded to go and make disciples, what prevents us?

Wednesday: Matthew 28:19; Luke 24:44-53

Go

What are the similarities and differences between Luke and Matthew’s recording of the Great Commission?

What does it mean to go?

Thursday: John 15:1-17; Matthew 28:19

Make Disciples

What does it mean to be a disciple?

What does it mean to make disciples?

Who taught you to follow Jesus?

Who are you teaching to follow Jesus?

Friday: Romans 10:14-15; Matthew 28:20

Application

What is keeping you from sharing the gospel?

What attitudes, actions, or priorities might need to change in your life for you to begin actively sharing Christ with others?

What is keeping you from teaching someone how to live for Jesus?

Who is one person you need to share the gospel message with this week?

How is Jesus with us in our efforts to share the gospel and make disciples?