

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 GUIDE

Handout: 2/26

Study: 3/5

Intimacy

Helping us stay “connected” has become big business in our culture. Smart phones, Facebook, and Twitter give us instant access to friends, family, work, and the world. But how much time do we actually spend building meaningful face-to-face relationships? And let’s go one step further—how much effort do we invest in connecting with God?

What kind of relationship do you have with the Lord? Is He a distant Deity or your closest friend? In one way or another, everyone has an association with Him, whether it’s acknowledged or not. Even those who say they don’t believe in God are bound to Him simply because He created them. Sadly, the majority of people in this world have no idea who their Creator is. This week we will examine four things that will draw us into a deeper relationship with God and those we hold close.

• Created for Intimacy with God

Yet the Lord designed mankind to relate to Him. That’s what it means to be made in His image (Genesis 1:26). We’ve been given a spirit that can communicate with His Spirit. Just look at the earth and the heavens above. Although God is the Creator of all these things, He can never interact with a mountain or a star as He does with you. There is no higher honor that He could have given us than to be made in His image.

• Understanding Intimacy with God

To help us comprehend what closeness with the Lord looks like, let’s examine the writings of David, whom the Bible calls a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22). Psalm 63:1-8 gives a vivid description of His consuming passion for His Lord.

• Getting to Know God

The first step in our quest for intimacy with the Lord is getting to know Him—who He is, what He does, how He thinks, and what He desires. Even though God is invisible and inaudible to our physical senses, a close relationship with Him is cultivated the same way human friendships are—through time spent together, communication, vulnerability, and shared interests

• Results of Knowing God

Some Christians confuse knowing the Lord with knowing about Him. But no experience we have with Him or fact we learn about Him should ever be a strictly academic pursuit. Rather, such knowledge ought to continually transform us, influence others, and prepare us for heaven.

<https://www.intouch.org/read/intimacy-with-god>

KEY VERSE

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (John 17:3, NKJV)

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Read John 17:3

How much time do you actually spend building meaningful face-to-face relationships?

And let's go one step further—how much effort do you invest in connecting with God?

Tuesday: Read Genesis 1:26-27; Ephesians 2:1-5; John 4:24

Created for Intimacy with God

What does it mean to you to be intimate with someone?

Is sex necessary for intimacy?

Do you think it is possible to be intimate with God?

Are you intimate with God? If so, how would you describe your intimate relationship with Him?

Wednesday: Read Acts 13:22; Psalms 63:1-8

Understanding Intimacy with God

To understand intimacy with God, let's look at a psalm of David who was a man after God's own heart. Read Psalm 63:1-8.

Yearning for God (vs. 1):

- Do you have a daily thirst for God?
- What do you do regularly that shows that you want more of Him?

Awakened Spiritual Senses (vs. 2):

- How do you “see” the one who is unseen?
- Do you have a deep sense and awareness of God's presence in your life?

New Values and Priorities (vs. 3-4):

- Is your relationship with God the best thing in your life?
- Does He take precedence over everything else?

Satisfaction and Fulfillment (vs. 5-6):

- Do you remember what it feels like to be in love? The joy of being in His presence satisfies us as nothing else can.

Trust and Dependence (vs. 7-8):

- Do you find shelter from God in life's storms and experience safety that comes with submission to His will?

Thursday: Read Passages Below

Getting to Know God

The first step in our quest for intimacy with the Lord is getting to know Him—who He is, what He does, how He thinks, and what He desires. Consider these four areas of intimacy.

- **Time Spent Together (Matthew 6:6):**

Couples who want privacy may go into the bedroom together and shut the door. Where do you go to find intimacy with God?

- **Two-Way Communication (Psalm 17:6):**

What would you say is the number one way God speaks to you?

- **Vulnerability (Psalm 139:1, 13):**

Are you open and honest, exposing every area of your life to the Lord?

- **Shared Interests (Matthew 22:37):**

If we're going to grow in oneness with God, we must learn to share His interests. He is always attentive to our concerns, but do you really care about His desires and purposes? Are you more interested in the Lord or in what He can give you?

Friday: Read John 17:3; Luke 24:32

Results of Knowing God

Some Christians confuse knowing the Lord with knowing about Him. But no experience we have with Him or fact we learn about Him should ever be a strictly academic pursuit. Rather, such knowledge ought to continually transform us, influence others, and prepare us for heaven. Below are three areas to strongly consider.

Transformation:

- How has your relationship with God changed you?
- Is your time with God your favorite part of the day? Why or why not?

Influence:

- Is your passion for the Lord contagious toward others?

Preparation for Heaven:

- One day every believer is going to meet the Lord. Will He be a stranger to you?
- What are you waiting for?