

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



Adaptability

When we get into our cars, we do so with a destination in mind. We plan to go somewhere. We typically know how we plan to get there, which highway we are going to take – even which street we are going to turn onto in order to arrive at our destination.

And if we don’t, we at least type in the destination address into our smart phone app and rely on an automated voice to guide us every step of the way.

Whether we are following our own mental map or the one in our phones, sometimes we run into a detour-some closed end that requires us to make a U-turn or go down a path we had not previously expected.

I don’t know about you, but I like to get to where I am going without any detours. When I take a long road trip with the family, I won’t even stop for normal things like food and bathroom breaks, unless my family insists, so you can imagine how I feel about a detour. It’s not good. I sigh. I moan. I wonder why on earth did this have to happen to me right now.

Have you ever done something similar? You can admit it, too.

Few of us like to be stalled for any reason, even if it’s just someone cutting us off in traffic and forcing us to slow down. But detours are necessary if any improvement is going to be made on the paths we travel or if any wreck is going to be cleaned up or hazard avoided. Detours are designed for our own good, regardless of how we view or feel about them.

They are a good thing that often feels bad.

Divinely designed detours in our lives are also positive interruptions designed to divert us to a better path so that we might have the opportunity to reach our destination well. What’s more, they often provide the development we need in order to reach our destiny. How we view our detours will often determine how useful they wind up being, which is why we need to examine the purpose, power, and perfection of the detours God both uses and allows in our lives.

Tony Evans, *Detours*.

KEY VERSE

“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content “ (Philippians 4:11 NKJV)

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Read James 1:2-4

When has your life been going in one direction and then something happened to make it change course?

When a detour occurs in your life, how do you generally react to it?

The Bible gives us many examples of people who had to adapt. One great example is Joseph. His brothers threw him in a pit, but God brought him to the palace.

Tuesday: Read Genesis 37

Trials

Joseph’s brothers threw him in a pit and sold him into slavery. Where was God during this horrible ordeal?

Read Genesis 37:21-22. In what way was God with Joseph in the pit?

Read Genesis 37:26-28. In what way was God with Joseph in having him sold to slave traders?

Read Genesis 37:36. Why is it important to note who Joseph was sold to?

Wednesday: Read Genesis 39

God’s Presence In Our Trials

Genesis 39 says twice that the Lord was with Joseph.

Read Genesis 39:2-6. What are some ways that God blessed Joseph?

Read Genesis 39:21-23. Joseph’s life seems to take another bad turn. He is falsely accused of rape and thrown in prison. How was God still with Joseph?

Thursday: Read Genesis 41:1-14

Waiting

Nobody likes to wait. Waiting seems especially difficult in our busy DMV area, however learning to wait is a key part of adaptability.

How many years had passed since the cupbearer had interacted with Joseph (Genesis 41:1)?

Is there something in your life that you thought would be changed, but several years have now passed?

How does this passage encourage you to hang in there and wait for God’s timing?

Friday: Read Genesis 50:15-21

Forgiveness

You can’t adapt if you can’t forgive. Fast forward to the end of Joseph’s journey. His father Jacob dies and his brothers become afraid that Joseph may now retaliate. How was Joseph able to forgive his brothers?

Why do you think that Joseph was able to adapt to his life circumstances whether he was in slavery, in prison, or in the palace?

How can you be more adaptable to situations outside of your control?