

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



Taking God To Work GROWTH GUIDE
The Keys To Lasting Success

Handout: 11/12/17
Study: 11/19/17

Overcoming Difficult People

“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:18).

Co-worker bad behaviors can cause stress, steal your peace and even damage your career. As believers, our calling includes finding ways to live at peace even with the most difficult personalities. At the root of much relationship difficulty, we find unhealthy habits of relating. In addition to prayer, Christians should be on the lookout for ways to coax our colleagues into healthier ways of communicating and working together. Try to avoid just labeling someone as “difficult” and leaving it there. Labels place people in boxes and limit their growth.

It is okay to name bad behavior (such as throwing a co-worker under the bus.) But better yet, why not suggest better behavior. For example, I noticed an instinct among my line managers to blame someone whenever anything went wrong. After making it clear I wasn’t going to blame the manager, I tried to model attacking the problem instead of people. Everyone does what they do for a reason. Figure out why and you may soon solve the underlying problem. Is it a broken process? Unrealistic demands? Lack of training?

Weapon Number 1: Kindness. While noticing the faults of others is easy, responding in Christ-like fashion takes patience. Looking honestly at our own imperfections makes it easier to extend grace to others. “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.” (Romans 12:14-16).

Weapon Number 2: Humility. Humility is about honestly understanding the depths of our own immaturity. If God allows us to help someone who is struggling with one of the aforementioned bad behaviors, do it with meekness knowing that our wisdom is coming from God and not within ourselves. We must strive to keep our own behavior in line with Scripture and our faith. “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom” (James 3:13).

Weapon Number 3: Control Anger. Instead of giving into angry emotions, give them away. Our best example is of course, Christ. “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously” (I Peter 2:21-23).

By David L. Winters

KEY VERSE

Romans 12:18

*"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."
NKJV*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Romans 12:18

Introduction

1. What are some bad behaviors you've seen in your workplace?
2. Is it possible to live at peace with co-workers in spite of their bad behavior?

Tuesday: Romans 12:14-15

Words of Kindness

3. Have you had an instance where you had to bless those who cursed you or treated you badly at work?
4. How can kindness overcome evil or make a bad situation better?

Wednesday: Romans 12:16; James 3:13-18

Thoughts of Humility\

5. What does it mean to be high-minded or wise in our own opinion?
6. Why does meekness and a humble attitude lead to good behavior?
7. Do you think pride is at the root of many workplace disagreements? Give an example.

Thursday: Romans 12:17-19; 1 Peter 2:21-23

Feelings of Forgiveness

8. How can anger make things worse instead of better?
9. How can the example of Jesus help us respond to issues in the workplace?
10. How can we commit ourselves to God during our trials?

Friday: Psalm 140:9-10; Proverbs 25:21-22

Acts of Goodness

11. How can you keep from being overcome by evil?
12. How can doing good things for people who treat you badly help you to overcome evil?
13. What is one step you can take to overcome difficult people in your life?