

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

At The Cross

With People Who Were There

GROWTH GUIDE



Handout: 02/11/18

Study: 02/18/18

Mary Magdalene

Matthew, Mark, and John all record that Mary Magdalene was present at the crucifixion. Combining all three accounts, it is clear that she stood with Mary (the mother of Jesus), Salome (mother of the apostles James and John), and another Mary (mother of James the Less and Joses).

John, describing the scene at the crucifixion, said the women were “standing by the cross” (John 19:25). They were close enough to hear Jesus speak to John and His mother when He committed her to the beloved disciple’s care (John 19:26–27). Mary Magdalene and the other women remained near the cross until the bitter end.

There was nothing for them to do but watch and pray and grieve. It must have seemed the greatest possible disaster, to have the One whom they loved and trusted above all torn from their midst so violently. There they stood, in a crowd of bloodthirsty fanatics who were screaming for the death of their beloved Lord. With the mad furor of hatred at the very pinnacle of intensity, they could easily have become victims of the mob. But they never shrank away completely. Such was the magnetism of their loyalty and love for Christ.

In fact, it was only thanks to Mary Magdalene that the disciples even learned where Jesus’ body was laid after His death. Mark records that Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Christ in order to give it a proper burial. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses secretly followed Joseph to the tomb and “were looking on to see where He was laid” (Mark 15:47).

Mary Magdalene’s love for Christ was as strong as anyone’s. She took note of where and how He had been laid in the tomb. After all He had done for her, it must have broken her heart to see His lifeless, mangled body so poorly prepared and laid in a cold tomb. She was determined to wash and anoint His body properly. So Luke 23:55–56 says she and the other Mary began the preparation of their own burial spices before the Sabbath began. Mark 16:1 adds that they purchased still more spices as soon as the Sabbath was officially over (sundown on Saturday). In spite of their deep grief, they earnestly desired to give the Lord a burial befitting His greatness and their profound love for Him.

Mary Magdalene was also the first to reach His tomb at daybreak on the first day of the week. Her devotion was never more plain than in her response to His death, and that devotion was about to be rewarded.

God is glorified when He redeems the worst of sinners and uses them for the greatest of purposes. Mary Magdalene stands out in Scripture as a shining example of that. She was rescued by Christ from the hopeless bondage of seven demons. And she was chosen by the Lord to be the first person on the planet to see and hear her resurrected Lord.

Source: <https://www.gty.org/library/Print/Blog/B150522>

KEY VERSE

John 19:25

*“ Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.”
NKJV*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: John 19:17-24

Introduction

1. Have you ever had to watch someone you love suffer?
2. What do you think Mary Magdalene experienced at the cross?

Tuesday: Luke 8:1-3; Romans 6:22-23

Jesus Delivers Mary Magdalene

3. What do you learn about Mary Magdalene from these verses?
4. What has Jesus delivered you from?

Wednesday: Mark 15:37-41; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Mary Magdalene At The Cross

6. What changes took place in Mary Magdalene to move her from a demon possessed woman to a woman who followed Jesus all the way to his death?
6. What changes are evident in your life since you have become a follower of Jesus?

Thursday: Mark 15:42—16:7

Mary Magdalene’s Devotion

7. How would you describe Mary Magdalene’s devotion to Jesus after his death?
8. What are some practical ways that you can demonstrate your love and devotion to Jesus?

Friday: John 20:1-18

Resurrected Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

9. What emotions were evident when Mary Magdalene met the risen Lord?
10. Why do you think Jesus appeared to her first after his resurrection?
11. After studying Mary Magdalene, what have you learned? How can she be an example to you?