

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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At The Cross

With People Who Were There

GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 02/18/18

Study: 02/25/18

John

It is noteworthy that of the twelve men who Jesus called to follow him and be his disciples during his earthly ministry, only the Apostle John was present at his crucifixion. What gave John the courage to be there while the others scattered?

John’s life was transformed by Jesus. As a young man, John was looking for truth. John was likely one of the two disciples who were followers of John the Baptist. They heard John the Baptist declare that Jesus was the Lamb of God and they followed Jesus (John 1:35-37).

Despite his interest in truth, John was characterized by his zealous nature and his ambition. Jesus named John and his brother James “The Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17) for a good reason. When a Samaritan village refused to receive Jesus, James and John asked Jesus if they could call fire down from heaven to consume the village. (Luke 9:54) Jesus rebuked them for their lack of love and compassion.

John’s ambition was displayed when he and his brother asked for prominent positions in His kingdom at an inappropriate time. Mark 10:32-35 records Jesus predicting his betrayal, death, and resurrection. This was surely a lot for the disciples to comprehend. However, the Sons of Thunder saw it as a time to ask to sit on His right and left hand in glory. (Mark 10:35-37). John did not understand the true meaning of service and discipleship.

Despite his shortcomings, John was the only one of the 12 disciples present at the crucifixion. Being ambitious and zealous would not have been enough to cause him to be there. Those attributes often fade when disaster strikes. In the midst of this unbelievable tragedy, God in flesh, being crucified, John demonstrates his courage.

The oxford dictionary gives two definitions for courage:

1. The ability to do something that frightens one; bravery
2. Strength in the face of pain or grief

John undoubtedly had some fear for his safety. It wasn’t a popular time to be one of the 12 disciples and Jesus warned them that they would suffer too. John is a great example of the second definition. In the Gospel of John, he refers to himself as the “disciple whom Jesus loved”. He had a close relationship with Jesus. John must have been experiencing great emotional pain and grief while watching his close friend and “Lamb of God” suffering. It was John’s love for Jesus and his courage in spite of his pain or grief that put him at the cross.

Jesus entrusted the care of His mother Mary to John. (John 19:26-27). While he once lacked love and compassion, his relationship with Jesus transformed him into a loving person and a great servant. God changed John from a Son of Thunder to an Apostle of Love. To God be the glory.

KEY VERSE

John 19:26

“ When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’ “
NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: John 19:25-27; 1 Corinthians 16:13

Introduction

1. How would you define courage?
2. What is the most courageous thing God has asked you to do?

Tuesday: Mark 3:17; Luke 9:51-56

John the Son of Thunder

3. How would you describe John from these verses?
4. Have you ever been zealous for the Lord, but lacked love or compassion?
What can you learn from these verses?

Wednesday: Mark 10:35-45

John's Place in the Kingdom

5. How would you describe James based on these verses?
6. Have you ever been overly concerned with your position or status? What can you learn from these verses?

Thursday: John 19:26

Courage at the Cross

7. Why do you think that John had the courage to be at the cross when the other disciples were absent?
8. Why do you think that John referred to himself in this passage as “the disciple whom He loved” ?
9. Why do you think Jesus entrusted the care of his mother to John?

Friday: I John 4:7:21; John 13:1-17

John Grew to Be Like Jesus

John wrote 5 books of the Bible. The scripture written through him by inspiration of the Holy Spirit is evidence of a changed life. For example, where as John was once concerned about his position in the kingdom, the Gospel of John is the only one to record Jesus washing the disciples' feet (John 13:1-17). His Gospel account also has the famous verse about God's love for the world (John 3:16)

10. Compare I John 4:7-21 to Luke 9:51-56. What evidence do you see of John's growth?
11. What are some areas of your life that God can transform if you stay close with Him?