

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: 02/25/18

Study: 03/04/18

Mary the Mother of Jesus

Mary had probably always had an inkling that this day would come. She had surely heard Jesus speak (as He did often) of His own death. As a matter of fact, the cloud of this inevitable reality had probably hung over Mary’s mind since Jesus’ infancy.

When Jesus was yet a newborn infant, His earthly parents took Him to the temple to dedicate Him to the Lord in accordance with the instructions of Exodus 13:2, 13: “Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel . . . All the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem” (NKJV). Joseph and Mary came with a sacrifice of two turtledoves (Luke 2:24), which was what the law prescribed for people too poor to afford a lamb (Lev. 12:8). On that day, the little family from Nazareth encountered two elderly saints, Simeon and Anna.

Simeon was an old man whom Scripture describes as “just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25 NKJV). The Spirit of God had revealed to Simeon that he would have the privilege of seeing the Messiah before he died. On the day Joseph and Mary dedicated Jesus at the temple, the Holy Spirit led Simeon there also (v. 27 NKJV). As soon as Simeon saw Jesus, he knew this child was the Lord’s Anointed One. Scripture says he took the infant Jesus up in his arms and uttered a prophecy. Then, turning to Mary, he told her, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (vv. 34–35 NKJV, emphasis added).

Years later, as Mary stood watching a soldier thrust a sword into Jesus’ side, she must have truly felt as if a sword had pierced her own soul also. At that very moment, she might well have recalled Simeon’s prophecy, and suddenly its true meaning came home to her with full force. Mary’s sense of the injustice being done to Him must have been profound. After all, no one understood Jesus’ absolute, sinless perfection better than Mary did. She had nurtured Him as an infant and brought Him up through childhood. All those facts merely compounded the acute grief any mother would feel at such a horrible sight. The pain of Mary’s anguish is almost unimaginable.

Already in the final throes of death, Jesus spotted Mary standing nearby with a small group of women and John, the beloved disciple. For the final time, Jesus acknowledged His human relationship with Mary. In his own gospel account, John describes what the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’ And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home” (John 19:26–27 NKJV). So one of Jesus’ last earthly acts before yielding up His life to God was to make sure that for the rest of her life, Mary would be cared for. That act epitomizes Mary’s relationship with her firstborn Son. She was His earthly mother; but He was her eternal Lord. She understood and embraced that relationship. She bowed to His authority in heavenly matters just as in His childhood and youth He had always been subject to her parental authority in earthly matters (Luke 2:51). As a mother, she had once provided all His needs, but in the ultimate and eternal sense, He was her Savior and provider.

(excerpt from Twelve Extraordinary Women, by John MacArthur)

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: 1 John 2:3-6; John 15:14

Introduction

1. What does it mean to be obedient to God?
2. What does an obedient life look like?

Tuesday: Luke 1:26-38

Obeying Jesus Begins With Faith

3. What was Mary’s response to the angel who gave her incredible news?
4. What are some ways that Mary demonstrated her faith in God throughout her life?

Wednesday: Luke 1:46-55; Psalm 37:4

Obeying Jesus Produces Joy

5. In this passage, where did Mary find her joy?
6. What are some examples from your life where obeying God produced Joy?

Thursday: Luke 2:25-35; John 19:26-27

Obeying Jesus Includes Sorrow

7. What do you think that Mary thought when Simeon spoke the words in Luke 2:34-35?
8. At the cross, Mary surely experienced unbelievable grief and sorrow. What kept her there?
9. What are some examples in your life when obeying Jesus has been difficult?

Friday: John 14:23-24; John 14:15

Obeying Jesus Communicates Your Love For Him

10. How does being obedient to God show your love for Him?
11. How would you rate your level of love and commitment to God?
12. What are some areas of your life where you can grow in obedience?