

## 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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## Transforming Your Relationships

Did you ever notice how patient you are—as long as no one is getting on your nerves? Or how loving you are—as long as you’re surrounded by people who are easy to love? Or how humble you are—as long as you’re respected and admired by others? Every one of us is a saint in isolation! It’s in community that our real weaknesses, flaws, and sins are exposed. That’s why community is essential—not optional—for transformation. We can’t become the people God wants us to become outside of community.

You see, redemption is not the end of the story. God is preparing us for “new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). His goal is a renewed creation, where redeemed humans dwell in perfect harmony with each other and with their Creator. God is out to prepare his people for this glorious future by transforming them now, a process the Bible calls sanctification. The agent of sanctification is the Holy Spirit. The tool of sanctification is the truth of the gospel. And the context of sanctification is community.

Consider some of the “one another” statements in the Bible: “Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor” (Romans 12:10). “Comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace” (2 Corinthians 13:11). “Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13). “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another” (Ephesians 4:32). Isn’t it obvious that none of us can do these things perfectly? These commands aren’t given just so that we’ll know what we should do; they’re also given so that we can try, and fail, and grow in our experience of God’s grace. Trying to fulfill these “one another” commands helps to reveal our sin, drives us to Jesus in repentance and faith, and causes us to depend on the Holy Spirit for transformation. Community is the laboratory in which we learn to rely on God’s grace and experience the gospel’s transforming power.

Community is also the primary context for mission, our outward focus as believers. God wants to use our communities, messy and broken as they are, to draw others into his story and introduce them to Jesus, the Redeemer! It’s not just about us becoming more like Jesus; it’s about people who don’t know Jesus coming to know him as Savior and Lord.

We sometimes treat community like the safety net under a tightrope walker: it’s a good thing to have in case something bad happens. But the Bible talks about community as if it’s the tightrope itself: you can’t move forward without it. We are created for community. We are redeemed for community. And we are transformed in community.

## 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 12:9-21

#### Introduction

1. Which relationships of yours would you like to transform?
2. This passage provides for us many ways in which we must interact with people. Which is the area you need to improve upon most?

### Tuesday: Romans 12:9; John 13:34-35

#### Love One Another

3. Why is it difficult to love some people?
4. Since God tells us to love another, what makes us feel like we have a choice in how we will respond to others?

### Wednesday: Romans 12:10-13; Philippians 2:3-4

#### Be Selfless

5. In what ways does our culture influence us towards being self centered?
6. What does it look like to give “preference to one another” (Romans 12:10) ?

### Thursday: Romans 12:14-15; Luke 6:27-28

#### Bless Others Who Mistreat You

7. What are some ways in which we can bless those who mistreat us?
8. What does it look like to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those that weep?

### Friday: Romans 12:19-21; Colossians 3:12-14

#### Learn to Forgive

9. Why is it tempting to repay evil for evil? How can we trust God to handle the situation on our behalf?
10. Since God has forgiven us for so much, why is it difficult for us to forgive others? (Colossians 3:13)
11. This week concludes our Transformed study. We’ve learned about transforming our bodies, minds, service, and relationships. Are there any changes you are making?