

## 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:

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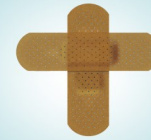
## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“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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## Finding Forgiveness

How can I be sure that God has forgiven me? This is the most critical forgiveness question. Indeed, it is the most critical question, period. Nothing can be more important than knowing that God has forgiven your sins and that you will spend eternity in perfect fellowship with him and his people.

We must be careful that we do not falsely assume we are forgiven by God when, in fact, we are not.

But don't be discouraged. Even as the New Testament exhorts us to evaluate our salvation, it also teaches that there is a proper basis for assurance of salvation. You can be sure that you will not be one of the people who hears, "I never knew you; depart from me" (Matthew 7:23). Indeed, God wants his people to have assurance of eternal life. The entire book of 1 John in the New Testament outlines the proper basis for assurance of salvation. For example:

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

So, how can you be sure you are truly are a Christian? You can evaluate whether you are forgiven by God by asking yourself three questions. Each of these questions is of vital importance. Don't ask yourself just one of them, but all three.

**First, do you presently have faith in the Lord Jesus for salvation?** Do you presently trust in Christ, and in him alone, for eternal life? You may be able to identify a time when you turned in faith to Christ. Looking back on that point when you put your faith and trust in Jesus ought to be a great blessing. But the more important question is, do you trust Jesus today for eternal life? True, saving faith is not something that comes and goes. If we truly have faith, we will continue to have faith (1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Colossians 1:23; Hebrews 3:14).

**Second, does the Holy Spirit testify with your spirit that you are a Christian?** The Bible says in Romans 8:16, "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." If you are truly a Christian, then the Holy Spirit will give you an inner confidence that you know Christ. This question is the most difficult to answer. You could drive yourself crazy asking, is that the Spirit testifying with my spirit? Do I truly have a sense of the presence of Christ in my life?

**Third, does my conduct give evidence that I am a Christian?** If you are truly a Christian, you should act like it. John said:

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2:3-4)

Now, let us be clear. Acting like a Christian does not make you a Christian no more than holding a pear makes you a pear tree. However, true Christians do act like Christians. . "Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright" (Proverbs 20:11).

Source: Brauns, Chris. Unpacking Forgiveness: Biblical Answers for Complex Questions and Deep Wounds

## KEY VERSE

Luke 15:24

*“for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” And they began to be merry. NKJV*

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## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Luke 15:11-24**

### Introduction

1. Describe a time you were forgiven. How did it make you feel?

2. How does this parable relate to your life?

**Tuesday: Luke 15:14-17; Isaiah 53:6**

### Recognize You Need God

3. What caused the son to recognize his need for his father in this parable?

4. What causes you to recognize that you need God?

**Wednesday: Luke 15:18-20a; Luke 15:1-7**

### Return Home To God

5. What did the son plan to say to his father when he returned home?

6. At times when you've strayed from God, do you find it easy or difficult to return to Him? What things do you need to say or do to return?

**Thursday: Luke 15:20b-24; 1 John 1:9**

### Receive God's Forgiveness

7. How would you describe the father's reaction to his son's return?

8. What does this parable teach us about God's desire to forgive us?

**Friday: I Peter 1:3; I Peter 3:18; I Corinthians 15:3-8**

### Celebrate Easter

9. What price did Jesus pay for you to be able to have forgiveness?

10. Why was Jesus willing to lay down his life for you?

11. What hope does his resurrection provide for you?