

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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ON MISSION TOGETHER



GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 07/08/18
Study: 07/15/18

Together In Prayer

Paul didn’t know the Colossians personally, but that didn’t stop him from praying for them faithfully and specifically. I suggest that Paul’s prayer for those brothers and sisters in Christ in that small town of Colossae, with whom he was not yet acquainted, provides a model for us to remember and emulate. Even when we know people well and are deeply familiar with their struggles and needs, we should keep in mind the lofty things for which Paul dropped to his knees on behalf of the Colossians.

Like Paul, let’s be faithful in our prayers. We should lift up one another continually. Let’s not wait around for a text message, e-mail, or Sunday school announcement listing a person’s conflicts, anxieties, needs, or pains. We can pray for people we know or don’t know even if we have no knowledge of their every struggle. In other words, we don’t need to wait to learn about every ache and pain to be faithful in prayer. We don’t need to have a detailed description of every financial hardship or relational difficulty to intercede on behalf of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We can pray faithfully and continually for anyone.

And like Paul, we should be specific in our prayers for others. This may seem like a contradiction of the first point. If we don’t wait for a list of prayer requests, how can we pray for specifics? What I mean is this: We should pray specifically for things Scripture itself emphasizes as needs that are common to all believers. We can do more than bow our heads, close our eyes, and say, “God, be with Joanne and Bob. And help Mary and Joe.” “Being with” and “helping” can be pretty vague. The prayer of Colossians 1 shows that we can be specific even for people we don’t know. It gives us insight into some very specific things everybody needs.

1. **Pray for knowledge**, specifically praying that they would discern His will, that they would stay faithful to the truth, and that they would have critical minds to handle deceptive false teachings. Also, ask the Lord to grant them deeper wisdom and spiritual understanding to handle skillfully whatever tests and challenges come their way.
2. **Pray for God-honoring lives**, specifically praying that they would know and do what pleases Him. Ask that they would yield to the Spirit’s inner work to produce quality spiritual fruit, and that they would continually grow in faith, love, and hope.
3. **Pray for strength**, specifically praying that they would have an attitude of inner patience and would exhibit endurance. Pray that the Lord would grant them joyful fortitude and the ability to hold up under trying circumstances and rejoice even in the most frustrating adversity.

Now think about a person you know at church, at work, at school, or in your extended family. Whether he or she is a believer or unbeliever, pray for that person. Intercede for that person daily over the next several weeks. As you do, know that you are praying according to God’s will and that God delights in imparting things that can only come from Him: true knowledge, real holiness, and abiding strength.

KEY VERSE

Colossians 1:10

“that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Colossians 1:3-12

Introduction

1. Who are some people that you pray for? What things do you pray for them?
2. What is the relationship between prayer and missions?

Tuesday: Colossians 1:9a; I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Pray Regularly

3. How often do you pray: for yourself? For your family and friends? For our CBC missionaries?
4. What are some steps that you have taken or are willing to take to make prayer a regular and reoccurring part of your life? What is your plan for prayer?

Wednesday: Colossians 1:9b; James 1:5

Pray For Knowledge of God's Will

5. Why is it important to pray for others to know God's will for their lives?
6. Why do we need to pray for our missionaries to have spiritual understanding?

Thursday: Colossians 1:10; John 15:4-5

Pray To Walk Worthy Of The Lord

7. In Colossians 1:10, what are characteristics of walking worthy of the Lord?
8. What does it mean to be fruitful?
9. Why is it important to pray for missionaries to be fruitful and to increase in the knowledge of the Lord?

Friday: Colossians 1:11-12; Romans 12:12; James 5:7-8

Pray For Strength

10. Who is the source of strength for the believer?
11. Why is it important to pray for missionaries to have patience and long suffering with joy?
12. How can you be more effective in praying for others?