

## 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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I  MY  
CHURCH

**GROWTH  
GUIDE**

Handout: 09/16/18

Study: 09/23/18

## We Love Our Outreach

When D.L. Moody was directing his Sunday School in Chicago, one boy walked several miles to attend; and somebody asked him, “Why don’t you go to a Sunday School closer to home?”

His reply might have been used by the publicans and sinners in Jesus’ day: “Because they love a feller over there.”

It is significant that Jesus attracted sinners while the Pharisees repelled them. (What does this say about some of our churches today?) Lost sinners came to Jesus, not because He catered to them or compromised His message, but because He cared for them. He understood their needs and tried to help them, while the Pharisees criticized them and kept their distance (see Luke 18:9–14). The Pharisees had a knowledge of the Old Testament Law and a desire for personal purity, yet they had no love for lost souls.

Three words summarize the message of Luke 15: lost, found, and rejoice. Jesus spoke these parables to answer the accusations of the Pharisees and scribes who were scandalized at His behavior. It was bad enough that Jesus welcomed these outcasts and taught them, but He went so far as to eat with them! The Jewish religious leaders did not yet understand that the Son of man had “come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). Even more, they were still blind to the fact that they themselves were among the lost.

This chapter makes it clear that there is one message of salvation: God welcomes and forgives repentant sinners. But these parables also reveal that there are two aspects to this salvation. There is God’s part: the shepherd seeks the lost sheep, and the woman searches for the lost coin. But there is also man’s part in salvation, for the wayward son willingly repented and returned home. To emphasize but one aspect is to give a false view of salvation, for both the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man must be considered (see John 6:37; 2 Thes. 2:13–14).

Since one of the major themes of this chapter is joy, let’s consider the three different joys that are involved in salvation: the Joy of Finding (Luke 15:1-10), the Joy of Returning (Luke 15:11-24), and the Joy of Forgiving (Luke 15:25-32) C.S. Lewis wrote, “Joy is the serious business of heaven,” and it is a joy in which you and I can share.

Source: Bible Exposition Commentary by Warren Wiersbe

## KEY VERSE

Luke 15:7

*I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. NKJV*

## WEEKLY READINGS

### Monday: Luke 15:1-32

#### Introduction

1. Describe a time in your life where you rejoiced in finding something you thought was lost.
2. What can we learn about God's love for the lost in these passages?

### Tuesday: Luke 15:1-2; Luke 19:1-10

#### We Love Outreach Because of What Jesus Did

3. Why do you think Jesus ate with sinners and tax collectors? Who would be sinners and tax collectors today in your life?
4. What was it about Jesus that made the tax collectors and sinners come to Jesus? How can we be more like Him in this way?

### Wednesday: John 15:3-32

#### We Love Outreach Because of What Jesus Said

5. What do these three parables have in common?
6. What do these parables tell us about the heart of God?

### Thursday: John 4:35; Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 16:14

#### We Love Outreach By Searching For the Lost

7. What does it mean to search for the lost in your life?
8. How would you rate your commitment to searching for the lost?

### Friday: I Corinthians 9:19-23; I Peter 3:15; Proverbs 18:24

#### We Love Outreach By Being Attractive to the Lost

9. How can we share the gospel in a way that attracts people, while still holding true to the gospel?
10. Describe a time when you have observed the gospel shared in an unattractive way.
11. What part do you play in giving Capital Baptist a warm atmosphere when guests attend?
12. God is committed to pursuing the lost. How can you obtain this same determination for the lost?