

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:

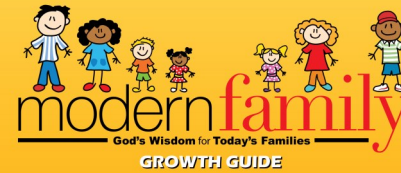
PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“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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Handout: 11/11/18

Study: 11/18/18

Modern Family Hurt

Does it ever feel like the heartbreak in your life is trying to break you?

I understand. I really, really do. I’ve been in that place where the pain of heartbreak hits with such sudden and sharp force that it feels like it cuts through skin and bone. It’s the kind of pain that leaves us wondering if we’ll ever be able to function like a normal person again.

But God has been tenderly reminding me that pain itself is not the enemy. Pain is the indicator that brokenness exists.

Pain is the reminder that the real enemy is trying to take us out and bring us down by keeping us stuck in broken places. Pain is the gift that motivates us to fight with brave tenacity and fierce determination, knowing there’s healing on the other side.

And in the in-between? In that desperate place where we aren’t quite on the other side of it all yet, and our heart still feels quite raw?

Pain is the invitation for God to move in and replace our faltering strength with His. I’m not writing that to throw out spiritual platitudes that sound good; I write it from the depth of a heart that knows it’s the only way.

We must invite God into our pain to help us survive the desperate in-between.

The only other choice is to run from the pain by using some method of numbing. But numbing the pain — with food, achievements, drugs, alcohol or sex — never goes to the source of the real issue to make us healthier. It only silences our screaming need for help.

We think we are freeing ourselves from the pain when, in reality, what numbs us imprisons us. If we avoid the hurt, the hurt creates a void in us. It slowly kills the potential for our hearts to fully feel, fully connect, fully love again. It even steals the best in our relationship with God.

Pain is the sensation that indicates a transformation is needed. There is a weakness where new strength needs to enter in. And we must choose to pursue long-term strength rather than temporary relief.

So how do we get this new strength? How do we stop ourselves from chasing what will numb us when the deepest parts of us scream for some relief? How do we stop the piercing pain of this minute, this hour?

We invite God’s closeness. For me, this means praying. No matter how vast our pit, prayer is big enough to fill us with the realization of His presence like nothing else.

Source: “Pressing Through The Pain” by Lysa TerKeurst

KEY VERSE

James 4:1

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: James 4:1-12

Introduction

1. Write two wounds that God healed in your life.
2. Write two wounds that you caused in your family.

Tuesday: I John 2:15-17; James 4:1-5

The Cause Of Pain

3. What are some reasons that we cause pain in other's lives (or others have caused pain in our life)?
4. Give an example of how sin has caused pain in your family.

Wednesday: Psalm 61:1-4; Romans 8:35-39; James 4:6-8

Draw Near To God

5. Identify and write a time you felt alone and God comforted you with His presence.
6. Point out to God the last hurt that has troubled you. Fill in that hurt in this blank space.

_____ nor any created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39)

Thursday: II Corinthians 5:17-21; Hebrews 2:17-19; James 4:9-12

Turn From Sin

7. Are there sins in your life that are hurting your family? Confess them to God and ask for His help to overcome them.
8. How do you typically react when someone hurts you? How can you have a response that glorifies God?
9. Describe a situation where you responded to hurt in a sinful way.

Friday: Colossians 3:12-14; Matthew 18:21-35

Forgive

10. List some hurts in your life that have been difficult to forgive.
11. What are some things that you need to ask God and your family to forgive?
12. Why is it important to forgive those who hurt us?
13. Write down something you would like to express to God. What situation in your life do you need Him to help you with?