

## 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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# Christmas at Capital

## GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 12/16/18  
Study: 12/23/18

### Miracles Of Christmas

It is a wonderful, mysterious, hard-to-grasp, and beyond-the-scope-of-our-normal-reasoning story. But when you get it, when you come to fully understand the purpose and implications of this story, you will sing too. This story’s amazing plot wasn’t written when Mary got pregnant or when prophets began foretelling it or when God announced it after the disastrous rebellion of Adam and Eve. This story is so miraculous in every way that it could have only come out of the mind of God in eternity before the foundations of the earth were laid down by his mighty hand. It points to the divine imagination and screams the power of the divine hand. No man could write this plot and if he did, no man could expedite what he had written. This story is itself an argument for the existence of God and is a portrait of his holy character.

The beautiful world that God had created was now broken and groaning—the direct result of the rebellion of the ones God had made in his own image and had placed his guiding and providing love upon. The evidence of its brokenness was everywhere, from the inner recesses of the hearts of people, to violence and corruption of government, to the existence of plagues and diseases. Sure, there was beauty still to be seen, but the whole world groaned under the weight of its brokenness. It would have been just for God to stay his distance, to let the world quake and groan. It would have been a just response to the arrogant rebellion that brought this brokenness on the world. But in one of the gorgeous mysteries of God’s sovereign grace, he looked on his broken, rebellious world with eyes of mercy.

Yes, God would act decisively, and his actions would be what he had planned in the beginning, but they would be a stunning surprise to every mere mortal. His response would not be condemnation and judgment. His response would not be a meting out of justice. Rather, his response would be intervention and rescue. He would do in grace what the law could never do. He would do in grace what we could never do for ourselves. He would do what philosophers could never conceive, what leaders could never strategize, and what poets could never imagine. He would offer the only thing that would ever address the need and solve the problem. He, himself, would become the greatest, most costly, most transformational gift ever.

God would take on human flesh and invade his sin-broken world with his wisdom, power, glory, and grace. But he wouldn’t descend to a palace. Instead, the Lord Almighty, the Creator, the sovereign King over all things would humble himself and take on the form of servant; he would live on our behalf the life we could have never lived, he would willingly die the death that you and I deserve to die, and he would rise from his tomb as the conqueror of sin and death. He would suffer every single day of his life so that he could, with his life, give grace to rebels, extend love to those who would deny his existence, impart wisdom to those who think they know better, and extend forgiveness to everyone who seeks him. His coming stands as an affirmation that he will not relent, he will not be satisfied until sin and suffering are no more and we are like him, dwelling with him in unity, peace, and harmony forever and ever.

## KEY VERSE

Luke 1:37

*"For with God nothing will be impossible." NKJV*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Luke 1:26-38**

### Introduction

1. List some miracles that took place in the first Christmas narrative. Which one is most meaningful to you?
2. List some words that describe how Mary must have felt when she got the news from the angel that she would miraculously give birth to Jesus.

**Tuesday: Matthew 1:18-24; Colossians 2:9; Isaiah 9:6**

### God Came To Earth

3. How does the angel describe Jesus to Joseph?
4. Why do you think that God came to earth?

**Wednesday: Luke 2:1-7,40, 50; Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:5-11**

### God Became Man

5. Jesus was born away from his family home and placed in a manger. How do you think Mary and Joseph were able to overcome these difficult circumstances?
6. Why do you think that God came to earth in the form of a baby?

**Thursday: Luke 2:8-20; John 3:16-17; Isaiah 49:6**

### Jesus Came For All Of Us

7. A pasture for sheep seems like the last place an angelic announcement for the King of Kings would be made. Why do you think that the angels appeared to the shepherds?
8. What was the response of the Shepherds to what they experienced?
9. What aspects of God's character caused Jesus to come to earth for us?

**Friday: Luke 2:25-38; I John 1:9; John 3:36; Romans 5:8**

### Jesus Came For Our Benefit

10. Put into your own words what Simeon said to Mary and Joseph regarding Jesus. What was Jesus going to do for us?
11. At the time of Jesus' birth many in Israel were looking for a Messiah who would deliver them from Rome. Why do you think Simeon and Anna were able to see Jesus for who he was?
12. What has Jesus done for you? Who can you tell about your experience with Jesus?
13. Most of us know the Christmas story and it is easy to gloss over. Look at the reactions people had to the miracles of the Christmas story. How can you view Christmas in a fresh way this year?