

## 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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**GROWTH GUIDE** the difference maker

Handout: 12/30/2018  
Study: 01/06/19

## My Readiness Can Make A Difference

You encounter opportunities to be a Difference Maker every single day. God gives you chances to extend an invitation to church. He gives you openings to tell your story. He puts you in situations where he can use you to influence others, whether those others happen to be in your office, in your classroom, at the gym or around your dinner table. The problem isn’t a lack of opportunity. The problem is that when an opportunity presents itself, you’re not quite ready. Consider these scenarios:

- One of your coworkers tells you that she and her husband are heading toward a divorce. According to her, there’s no hope for the relationship.
- While at dinner with a new friend who isn’t a believer, there’s an awkward pause when the food arrives because you want to pray... but you aren’t sure how your friend will respond.
- A classmate sees you reading your small group book and asks you about it.
- An acquaintance mentions that his father has just received some devastating medical news and confides that the family is having a hard time dealing with what’s to come.
- You’re chitchatting with a neighbor at local coffee shop when she brings up something negative about an outspoken Christian who has been in the news.

Have you found yourself in situations similar to these? Situations where you know you should bring up your faith in Jesus, but you hesitate because you don’t know what to say? God brings these divine appointments into your life so you can shine the light toward him, but if you aren’t prepared to take advantage of them, they’ll slip right by. The person you had the chance to influence will go on about his or her day, oblivious to the fact that he or she can share the hope you have in Jesus—and God won’t get the glory he deserves in your life or in theirs.

The key to being a Difference Maker is to be prepared for the everyday moments of opportunity God brings your way.

You may have heard the old saying, “Seventy percent of success in life is just showing up.” When it comes to being prepared to make a difference for God, you have to show up for him in three ways: physically, spiritually, and intellectually. In other words:

- Be where God wants you to be. (Physical Readiness)
- Be aware of who God wants you to invest in. (Spiritual Readiness)
- Be prepared to share your faith. (Intellectual Readiness)

Each of these three areas of preparedness is essential to being a Difference Maker.

Source: *The Difference Maker* by Nelson Searcy

## KEY VERSE

Acts 8:35

*Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. NKJV*

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## WEEKLY READINGS

### Monday: Acts 8:26-38

#### Introduction

1. Who introduced you to Jesus? Describe your conversations with this person.
2. In today's Bible reading, what words would you use to describe Phillip's readiness to share Jesus with the Ethiopian man?

### Tuesday: Acts 8:26; II Corinthians 5:20

#### Be Where God Wants You To Be

3. What are some places and situations that God has placed you in?
4. How can God use you to tell others about Him at your place of work/school? Your neighborhood? Your family? Your \_\_\_\_\_?

### Wednesday: Acts 8:27-30a; I Corinthians 9:19-23

#### Be Aware Of Who God Wants You To Invest In

5. Think about the places God has placed you. How is God working in the lives of people around you? How can you join Him?
6. List some people in your life that God is asking you to invest in.

### Thursday: Acts 8:30-38; I Peter 3:15; Colossians 4:2-6

#### Be Prepared To Share My Faith At Any Time

7. Assess your level of readiness to share your faith in Jesus with others. List reasons why you feel prepared or unprepared to share.
8. If you feel unprepared to share your faith, what are some steps you can take to be prepared for your next opportunity to share Jesus?
9. What role does prayer play in being prepared to share our faith?

### Friday: John 9:25; Romans 1:16; John 1:46

#### Reflection

10. When was the last time you had a spiritual conversation with a nonbelieving friend or family member?
11. Consider two people in your life today that do not know Jesus. How can you pray for each of them specifically today?
12. What fears or struggles are keeping you from sharing your faith? What truths about God can you meditate upon to fight against those fears?