

## 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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## My Story Can Make A Difference

A good friend of mine once told me that he didn’t think his story of salvation would impact anyone. In his opinion, it was boring. He had grown up in church, had given his life to the Lord at a young age, and had never strayed far from the straight and narrow. As such, he felt like he hadn’t been through anything interesting enough to impact others for Jesus. I assured him that the people I talk to who have the opposite stories—stories of running from God, stories full of mistakes and poor decisions—would love to hear his. They would give anything to have lived it themselves, especially if it meant never having to go through so much of what it took to bring them to their knees.

I’ve also spent a lot of time with people on the other end of the spectrum, counseling those whose pasts are so sordid the details would make you blush. Many of them have stories filled with the pain of addictions, the pain of lost relationships, and the pain of regret. They think that what they’ve been through is too heavy to share with anyone else, and that others wouldn’t be able to relate. But on the contrary, their stories of redemption—of finding God and the grace he offers after a lifetime of hardship—are often the most powerful.

No matter the details of your personal God story, it will resonate with the people who hear it. By their very nature, stories pique our interest. They cause us to sit up and take notice. Think about the last time you found your mind wandering while listening to a public speaker. Even if you had been tuning the person out for ten minutes, I bet you snapped back to attention when he or she started telling a personal story. Why? Because stories knock on our hearts in a way that makes us open the door, especially when they are stories about who God is and what he has done. By engaging us on an emotional level, these stories help us see new truths about the world around us and about ourselves.

While you and I are usually quick to dismiss our stories as uneventful, too eventful, or altogether unimportant, none of the above is true. If you are a follower of Jesus, you have a magnificent story to tell. That story is what God wants to use to show himself to the on-looking world. As author Shauna Niequist writes:

*There are two myths that we tend to believe about our stories: the first is that they’re about us, and the second is that because they’re about us, they don’t matter. But they’re not only about us, and they matter more than ever right now. When we, any of us who have been transformed by Christ, tell our own stories, we’re telling the story of who God is....*

*There’s nothing small or inconsequential about our stories. There is, in fact, nothing bigger. And when we tell the truth about our lives—the broken parts, the secret parts, the beautiful parts—then the gospel comes to life, an actual story about redemption, instead of abstraction and theory and things you learn in Sunday school.*

Source: *The Difference Maker* by Nelson Searcy

## KEY VERSE

John 9:25

*He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."  
NKJV*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: John 9:1-25**

### Introduction

1. How has God used your story to impact others?
2. Consider the blind man in today's scripture reading. What elements of his story are similar to yours and what elements are different?

**Tuesday: Romans 10:9-10; I John 5:13; John 14:6**

### Confirm My Story

3. When did you believe in Jesus for the first time? How did you receive Christ?
4. What realization did you come to that motivated you to ask Jesus to come into your life?

**Wednesday: I Peter 3:15-16; I Timothy 1:16**

### Complete My Story

5. Where were you spiritually before accepting Jesus?
6. How has your life changed since you became a Christian? What benefits have you experienced as a result of entering a relationship with Jesus?

**Thursday: Luke 12:11-12; Acts 20:24**

### Communicate My Story

7. Do you have a favorite way to share your testimony?
8. How can you listen for an opportunity to share the Gospel with others in conversation? How do you know when to share your testimony?
9. How can listening and asking good questions in conversation help you share your story in a way that ministers effectively?
10. Describe a moment when God gave you perfect timing to share His love in word and deed.

**Friday: Psalm 96**

### Sing A New Song

11. Describe how God changed your life and gave you a new song to sing to the world.
12. Who can you share your story with this week?