

## 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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Tom & Janice  
Crawford  
Missionaries  
to Indonesia  
Please Contact Them at  
tjcford@gmail.com



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Study: 02/10/19

## My Invitation Can Make A Difference

You and I live in a culture that swaps invitations freely. Over the course of a year, you probably receive hundreds of them. So do most people you know. Given this reality, it’s good that invitations are always positive, even flattering. Whether it’s for a significant life event or just out for ice cream, an invitation means that someone thinks enough of you to include you. They want to spend time with you and share an experience. An invitation places instant value on your presence and speaks to your esteem in the life of the one who has extended it. And whether or not you want to attend what you’ve been invited to, I bet you’re usually happy to have been thought of, right?

Even though our lives are filled with invitations big and small, ironically, the most important invitation we can offer someone is often the hardest to extend. It’s an invitation that can impact the course of someone’s life in the present and change his or her eternity. It can lead to a new relationship that will infuse love, hope and purpose into the darkest of circumstances and bring added joy to all that’s already good. Still, we hesitate. We hedge. We are slow to ask the one simple question that can have incredible implications for the invitee: Would you like to come to church with me this weekend?

Inviting someone to church isn’t complicated. It doesn’t require you to know the Bible from cover to cover. You don’t have to be able to outline the life and ministry of Jesus, or offer proof of his deity. You don’t have to engage in conversations about grace and redemption (though over time and through the help of these pages you may get to the point where you are comfortable doing just that). No, all it takes is the willingness to offer a simple invitation.

Inviting someone to church doesn’t have to be scary or intimidating, either. You and I have a tendency to make it so by choosing the wrong perspective. Instead of focusing on what the invitation might mean for the person we’re inviting, we focus on ourselves. I understand how it is. You build up the scenario in your mind and reinforce it with negative hypothetical scaffolding. You think about all of the questions they could ask you that you wouldn’t know the answer to. You worry what they’ll think of you. You make a mental list of all the things that could go wrong.

But none of these mental charades are rooted in truth.

Contrary to the fears that try to creep in and keep you silent, research shows that your friends and family members will likely respond positively when you offer them an invitation to church. Study after study reports that fifty percent of those you invite will join you for a service the first time you ask. Another twenty-five percent will come when offered a second or third invitation. So seventy-five percent of the people you invite to church will say yes. And the other twenty-five percent will appreciate the thought and effort of your invitation even if they decline it.

Source: The Difference Maker by Nelson Searcy

## KEY VERSE

John 1:46

*And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"  
Philip said to him, "Come and see." NKJV*

## WEEKLY READINGS

### Monday: John 1:35-49

#### Introduction

1. Today's passage describes the way that some of the disciples were invited to follow Jesus. List the ways they were invited.
2. Describe a time you were invited to church or to learn more about Jesus. How did you feel?

### Tuesday: I Thessalonians 2:7-12

#### Be Personal In Your Approach

3. What are the most thoughtful ways you have told someone about Jesus?
4. What was the most thoughtful answer someone gave you after you told them about Jesus?
5. We live in a busy place. How can you make time to intentionally invest in others?

### Wednesday: Colossians 4:2-6; Psalm 122:1

#### Be Positive In Your Presentation

6. List reasons why you go to Capital Baptist Church. Why is this a good place to invite people to come to?
7. In what ways are you a walking billboard for Jesus and for Capital Baptist church?

### Thursday: Luke 10:2; Luke 8:4-8

#### Be Plentiful In Your Contacts

8. List people in your life who you can invite to church. Will you pray for them now? Will you commit to consistently pray for them?
9. What are some fields in your life where you need to plant the seed of the Gospel?
10. What are ways you can meet new people to share the Gospel with?

### Friday: I Corinthians 3:6-9; II Timothy 4:1-2

#### Be Persistent About Your Follow Up

11. Did you love the idea of Jesus right away? Or did you love Him after listening about Him or to Him over time? How long would you say that you listened about Jesus or to Him before you received salvation?
12. Have you ever shared Jesus and the person listened, but did not receive salvation right then? How did you remind yourself to be patient and compassionate while the Holy Spirit continued to work in your hearts?
13. The article on the cover says that while 50% of people will accept your offer to come to church on your first invitation, 25% will come if you ask a second or third time. How can you stay persistent if your previous invitations have been rejected?
14. Who can you invite to church this week?