

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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Building Joyful Relationships

When Gale Sayers and Brian Piccolo, running backs for the Chicago Bears, began rooming together in the late sixties, it was a first for both of them. Sayers had never had a close relationship with a white person and Piccolo had never really known a black person.

During the 1968 season, Gale Sayers suffered a career-threatening knee injury. Many thought he would never play again. But one year later, after the close of the 1969 season and having made a full recovery, Gale Sayers stood at the banquet of the New York chapter of Professional Football Writers of America to accept the George S. Halas Award as the most courageous player in pro football.

Sayers and Piccolo had planned, with their wives, to sit together at the banquet. Instead, Piccolo was confined to his bed at home. His fight wasn't with a football injury but with cancer.

That night, Sayers accepted the George S. Halas Award, but he accepted it for Brian Piccolo. As he stood to receive his trophy he said, “You flatter me by giving me this award, but I tell you here and now that I accept it for Brian Piccolo. Brian Piccolo is the man of courage who should receive the George S. Halas Award. It is mine tonight; it is Brian Piccolo’s tomorrow. I love Brian Piccolo and I’d like all of you to love him too. Tonight, when you hit your knees, please ask God to love Brian Piccolo.”

“I love Brian Piccolo.” For some reason, those words sound strange coming from a professional athlete. In our culture, grown men do not usually express their affection so openly.

Before us now is a letter that is filled with expressions of love. As we read this brief letter from Paul to his friends in Philippi, we are immediately struck by the eloquent words he used to describe the deep feelings of attachment he had for all of them. The small church to which he wrote was located in a Roman colony known as Philippi. For over a decade the members of this church had lived and worked together as a close-knit group of believers. Now, the apostle who had founded the church some ten years earlier could not hide the deep sense of attachment he felt for them. He had been separated from them because of his imprisonment, and he longed for them. His life seemed incomplete without their fellowship.

Paul’s personal relationship with these intimate friends was interrupted because of his imprisonment, but his love for them had not diminished. In fact, his opening remarks in this letter were devoted to a detailed expression of his love for them and the prayer that their love for him and for each other would continue to grow. As Paul communicated his feelings for the Philippians, he touched on many of the key prerequisites for loving relationships within any local assembly. As he concluded his opening remarks, he launched into a prayer for the growth and maturity of these associates for whom he cared so deeply.

KEY VERSE

Philippians 1:3 (NKJV)

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you"

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Philippians 1:1-11

Introduction

1. Do you experience joy in your relationships? Why or why not?
2. How did Paul feel about the Philippian church? List words or phrases from today's scripture reading that demonstrate this.

Tuesday: Acts 16:11-34

The Philippian Church

3. Acts 16:11-34 describes the founding of the Philippian church. Who were the first members of the new church?.
4. How were they different? What did they have in common?

Wednesday: Philippians 1:1-5; Ephesians 4:1-3; James 3:8-10

Be Positive About the Good In People

5. What does it mean that the Philippian church has partnership in the gospel? How did the gospel affect their relationships?
6. How can thinking and speaking positively about people in your life make your life more joyful?

Thursday: Philippians 1:6-8; Ephesians 2:8-9; I Thess. 4:3-4

Be Patient With The Growth In People

7. How has God demonstrated patience towards you?
8. How has God's grace impacted your life? Whose salvation are you praying for?
9. In what ways has God grown you to be more like Jesus? Whose growth are you praying for?
10. How can realizing that you are still growing help give you patience with others?

Friday: Philippians 1:9-11; Luke 6:28; James 5:16

Be Prayerful For The Needs In People

11. What things did Paul pray for the Philippian church?
12. What are some things that you can pray for the people in your life?
13. How can praying for others bring joy to your life?