

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



How Can I Know God Personally?

Becoming a Christian requires that you know some things about Jesus Christ. You need to know who He claimed to be, eternal God in human flesh. You must know some of the things He did and taught. You need to understand that He died on the cross for your sins, and that He was raised bodily from the dead. But beyond these facts, you need to know Christ personally. That relationship begins at the moment you recognize that your sins have separated you from God and that you need a Savior. You also realize that you cannot save yourself from God’s judgment through your efforts or good works. Letting go of all human merit, you call upon the Lord to be merciful to you based on the merits of the death of His Son Jesus. Your object of trust for commending yourself to God shifts from self to Christ. You are saved. You have met Jesus Christ personally.

Like any relationship, once you’ve met, you must cultivate that relationship. If you meet the girl of your dreams, but then never see her again, you won’t have a relationship with her. You must spend time together, getting to know one another through conversation and shared experiences. You learn about her history, her family, her likes and dislikes, her hopes for the future, etc. If you do something to offend her, you ask her forgiveness and learn to work through difficulties in a harmonious way.

It’s the same in a personal relationship with Christ. It requires cultivation and that requires time. It never ceases to amaze me how a young man and a young woman can be extremely busy, but when they meet and things click between them, suddenly they can find many hours every week to be together. What were they doing to fill all those hours before? Whatever it was, it gets shoved aside so that they can pursue this new relationship.

Do you often make time to spend with the Lord? It’s sure easy for that first love to cool off, and time between you and the Lord gets squeezed out with other things. Or, it becomes your duty to have a quiet time, so you get out your Bible, grimace, and swallow a chapter a day to keep the devil away. But there wasn’t any love in it. You weren’t seeking to know Christ in a more intimate way. You weren’t opening your heart to Him, so that He could confront you and cleanse you and make you more like Himself. There’s no closeness, no intimacy.

We cannot know the Triune God except as He has chosen to reveal Himself to us. He is infinite and altogether apart from us. We can never come to know Him through philosophy or speculation. We can’t know Him through our own imagination or feelings. We can’t know Him through the ideas or experiences of others. We can only know Him as He has chosen to reveal Himself. That revelation comes through His written Word which tells us of the eternal living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ (see Heb. 1:1-3).

KEY VERSE

Philippians 3:10 (NKJV)

“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death “

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Philippians 3:7-12

Introduction

1. How would you rate your relationship with God?
2. How can we develop the passion for knowing God that Paul displays in today's scripture reading?

Tuesday: Romans 5:6-11; John 1:29, I John 5:12

Receive Jesus Christ As Your Lord And Savior

3. Every relationship has a starting point and a relationship with God begins with receiving Jesus as your savior. If you have not received Him yet, what are some reasons why? If you have received Him, how has it changed your life?
4. List some ways that your relationship has grown since you first met Him.

Wednesday: Luke 10:38-42; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Psalm 63:1-8

Prioritize Your Spiritual Growth

5. What are some priorities in your life that compete for your time and attention? How is your relationship with God more important than these?
6. Identify the advantages of God setting the priorities of your life. List some here:

Thursday: Hebrews 5:12-14; II Timothy 1:6; Romans 13:11-14

Challenge Your Spiritual Routines

7. How often do you study the Bible? How have you shown God that you know His words are important to you?
8. Describe your prayer life. How often do you speak to God first about your life before you speak to others about it?
9. Consider your service to God. Ask God what He wants the first goal for your life to be today. How will you, serve God today?

Friday: Luke 14:23; Revelation 22:17; Psalm 34:8

Invite People To Church

10. Think about how wonderful it is to know Jesus' peace in your heart. Listen to the Holy Spirit for when and who to invite to church. Now invite some one to church today.
11. Try to pepper your conversations with your scripture verses from this week. Did you hear God's love come out of you into the world?
12. Write down how important God's kingdom is in your life here: Continue to ask God for assignments to honor Him and write a few ideas here: