

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**

Christmas
with
Isaiah



Handout: 12/22/19

Study Date: 12/29/19

The Mission Of The Savior

Christ has good news for those who are poor (literally) humble, lowly, the needy, the afflicted. Christ looks for those who have been passed over, the outcasts, who realize that they need Someone to come for them. He comes for those who know they are sick, not for those who think they are well. Blessed are the poor in spirit, Jesus would say. He has good news for those who realize just how desperately they need a Savior. Notice (in Isaiah 61:1-3) how Isaiah says the Anointed One of God would do this:

1. He binds the brokenhearted

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted. Isaiah is speaking to some people who are about to see their nation topple. The Temple will be demolished. Everything they knew would be gone. Would God be their Helper in that day? "Does He care about what I'm going through?" The message of Isaiah is, "He will be there to bind up the wounds of your heart." He cares. He knows what you're going through. He will be there for you.

But on a deeper, spiritual level, this speaks of those who are broken over their sin, grieved over what they have done to God and against God. Can God forgive me? Will He take me in when He knows what I've been doing, been saying, been thinking? Yes.

2. He will set captives free

He has sent Me . . . to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners. For the people of Judah, deportation meant living as slaves to a foreign, pagan power. You have no will, no say, no vote. You are under the mastery of another. Can anyone rescue me, break the chains of my slavery?

And spiritually, this speaks of the captivity of sin. We are slaves to our father the Devil, says God's Word. But not any more!

3. He will restore what has been taken away

Verse 2: He has sent me . . . to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. The year of the Lord's favor is a reference to the "Year of Jubilee." The provision of the Law was that every 50th year, all the slaves were to be set free, all debts cancelled, and all land sold or taken for debt returned. It would be like having all your credit cards paid off, your mortgage canceled, and your debts settled.

This "Year of Jubilee" was meant to be an Old Testament picture of salvation through Christ! When a Christian is saved he is set free from his sins (his sin debt is cancelled), from the devil (to whom he had been enslaved), and from his sinful nature, and now the Lord begins to restore to him the years that he had squandered when he was away from the Lord.

Source: "The Mission Of The Savior" by Lloyd Stille

KEY VERSE

Isaiah 61:1 (NKJV)

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 4:17-21; Isaiah 46-48

Introduction

1. If you had to write a mission statement for your life, what would it be?
2. Jesus applies Isaiah 61:1-3 directly to himself in Luke 4:17-21. What does this tell us about Jesus' mission?

Tuesday: Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 5:27-32; Isaiah 49-51

The Savior Came To Be Your Preacher

3. According to today's scripture readings, what messages did Jesus preach or proclaim during his earthly ministry?
4. Who do you share the good news of Jesus with?

Wednesday: Isaiah 61:1b; Psalm 147:3; Isaiah 52-54

The Savior Came To Be Your Healer

5. In what ways has your heart been broken? How has Jesus healed your brokenness?
6. What are some ways in which God can use you to help heal brokenness in those in your life?

Thursday: Isaiah 61:2b; II Corinthians 1:3-4; Isaiah 55-57

The Savior Came To Be Your Comforter

7. What are some difficult situations you have faced?
8. How has Jesus provided comfort during these times?
9. What are some ways in which God can use you to help comfort hurting people?

Friday: Isaiah 61:3; II Corinthians 5:17; Isaiah 58-60

The Savior Came To Be Your Transformer

10. What are some ways in which your life has changed since you've known Jesus? In what ways are you a new creation?
11. What are some things you see God transforming in your life today?
12. What did God teach you through this series Christmas with Isaiah?