

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.

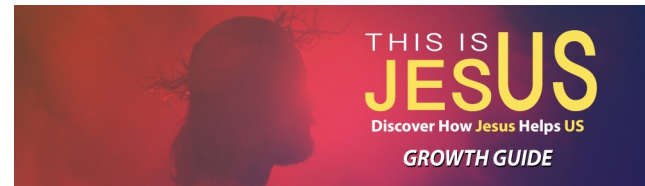
Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

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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THIS IS
JESUS
Discover How Jesus Helps US
GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 02/16/20
Study Date: 02/23/20

Jesus Forgives My Sin

Jesus took His disciples to Gentile territory, in the region of Caesarea Philippi. They were about 120 miles from Jerusalem in the northern part of Palestine. The region was strongly identified with various religions: It had been a center for Baal worship; the Greek god Pan had shrines there; and Herod the Great had built a temple there to honor Augustus Caesar. It was in the midst of this pagan superstition that Peter confessed Jesus as the Son of God. And it was probably within sight of Caesar’s temple that Jesus announced a surprise: He would not yet establish His kingdom, but He would build His church.

If anyone else asked, “Whom do men say that I am?” we would think him either mad or arrogant. But in the case of Jesus, a right confession of who He is is basic to salvation (Rom. 10:9–10; 1 John 2:18–23; 4:1–3). His person and His work go together and must never be separated. It is amazing to see how confused the public was about Jesus (John 10:19–21). Perhaps, like Herod, the people thought Jesus was John raised from the dead.

It had been prophesied that Elijah would come again (Mal. 4:5), and some thought that this prediction was fulfilled in Christ. However, Jesus did not minister as did Elijah; it was John the Baptist who came “in the spirit and power of Elias” (Luke 1:13–17). Jeremiah was the weeping prophet whose tender heart was broken at the sight of the decay of the nation. Certainly this attitude was seen in Jesus, the Man of sorrows.

One thing is clear: We can never make a true decision about Jesus Christ by taking a poll of the people. (But some people do get their “spiritual knowledge” this way!) The important thing is not what others say, but what do you and I personally say? The decisions of the crowd (wrong or right) can never substitute for personal decisions.

Peter had the correct response: “Thou art the Christ [the Messiah], the Son of the living God!” This confession was Peter’s response to the revelation God the Father had given him. Jesus Himself explained this experience in Matthew 11:25–27. This revelation was not the result of Peter’s own investigation. It came as the gracious act of God. God had hidden these things from the proud Pharisees and Sadducees and revealed them to “babes,” the humble disciples.

It should be noted that there had been other confessions of faith prior to this one. How, then, did this confession differ from those that preceded it? To begin with, Jesus explicitly asked for this confession. It was not an emotional response from people who had seen a miracle, but the studied and sincere statement of a man who had been taught by God.

KEY VERSE

Matthew 16:16 (NKJV)

Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 16:13-17; Luke 9:18-20; Mark 10

Introduction

1. What questions do you have about Jesus? What questions about Jesus do people around you have?
2. Who do you say Jesus is? Who does our culture say Jesus is?

Tuesday: Matthew 16:13-17; John 7:10-16; Mark 11

Reject False Views Of Jesus

3. What false views did people have about Jesus during his earthly ministry?
4. What false views about Jesus do people have today? How are you able to reject false views about Him?

Wednesday: Luke 4:16-21; Mark 14:60-65; Mark 12

Recognize That Jesus Said He Was The Messiah

5. According to today's scripture reading, in what ways did Jesus say He was the Messiah?
6. Read John 10:31-39. What is going on in this passage? Who did the religious leader's say that Jesus was claiming to be?

Thursday: Acts 10:39-43; Mark 2:1-5; Mark 13

Recognize That Jesus Showed That He Was The Messiah

7. According to today's scripture reading, how did Jesus show that He was the Messiah?
8. How has Jesus shown himself to be the Messiah in your life?
9. Since Jesus said He was the Messiah and showed that He was the Messiah, why did so many people not believe while He was on earth? Why do so many people not believe today?

Friday: John 3:16-17; Romans 10:9-13; Mark 14

Receive Forgiveness Through Jesus

10. According to today's scripture reading, how does a person receive forgiveness through Jesus?
11. Have you received forgiveness through Jesus? If not, what are some reasons why you haven't? If you have received this forgiveness, how has it changed your life?
12. Next week's sermon and growth guide will be "Jesus Understands My Temptation". How can Jesus help you stand up to temptation this week?