

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.

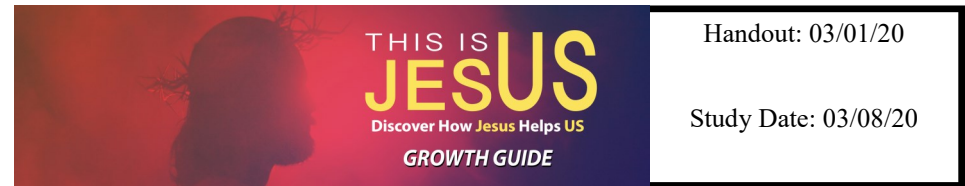
Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

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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Jesus Meets My Needs

The fame of Jesus was spreading like wildfire, and understandably so. No one had performed wondrous miracles like this man (John 6:2), and no one had spoken with authority like this teacher (Mark 1:22). People everywhere wanted to be in the presence of Jesus, either to reap the physical benefits (like healing), the spiritual benefits (like preaching), or the social benefits.

Jesus was tired, physically and emotionally. Remember, he was still a man – having large and demanding crowds follow you must have been exhausting. To find respite and to spend time with his closest friends, he went to the other side of the Galilee and up a mountain.

That didn't work – the crowd followed him up the mountain! But Jesus, being the compassionate Savior that he is, didn't try to escape. He began to make arrangements for the organized chaos that was about to ensue.

Jesus first saw that the crowd was hungry. Back in this day, there were no shopping mall food courts, service plazas, or fast food drive-thrus. These men, women, and children had been following Christ for a long time, and they had physical needs.

Jesus also recognized that these people had larger spiritual needs than a one-off meal. Even though they didn't know it, they were following Jesus because their hearts were empty. Yes, they were physically hungry, but they were spiritually starving to death.

Finally, Jesus knew that the occasion of the crowd's hunger and the timing of his provision would offer an opportunity to declare who he was. He also knew that this would give him an opportunity to shape his disciples' faith.

This story is a great reminder for us to have eyes like Christ, always on the lookout for opportunities to care physically and spiritually for those in our path.

Whenever I think about this passage of Scripture, I always find myself wondering: what if that little boy had said no to the stranger who came and said that Jesus wanted his food? What if his parents had said, "That's our food – leave us alone!"

But the story didn't happen that way. The boy selflessly gave up his little meal, and Jesus did with it what only the Son of God could do. By divine power, a crowd of thousands was satisfied by physical food (with plenty of leftovers!) and simultaneously pointed to the eternal source of spiritual food that satisfies the soul. Source: “Don’t Forget About The Boy” by Paul David Tripp

KEY VERSE

John 6:6 (NKJV)

But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: John 6:1-10; Mark 8:2-4; Luke 6

God Uses Needs To Test Your Faith

1. Have you ever felt overwhelmed and completely unable to meet the needs of your situation? What did you do and how did you get through it?
2. What was Andrew's response to the situation in John 6:8-9? How do you think you would have responded to the need?

Tuesday: John 6:11; I Thessalonians 5:18; Luke 7

Remain Thankful To God In Your Time Of Need

3. What are some reasons that it is difficult to be thankful when you are in a time of need?
4. What are some things you have to be thankful to God for in any circumstance?

Wednesday: John 6:8-9; 2 Kings 4:42-44; Luke 8

Allow God To Use Your Resources In Solving The Problem

5. Put yourself in the boy's shoes. How would you describe his faith and commitment to Jesus based upon his willingness to give what he had?
6. Do you ever feel like you don't have anything to give? What are some things you have to offer to Jesus?

Thursday: John 6:10-13; Jeremiah 32:27; Luke 9

Trust God To Multiply Your Gift And Miraculously Meet The Needs

7. According to John 6:11 how much food did the people eat? What does this say about Jesus's ability to meet our need?
8. According to John 6:11-12, how much food was collected? Describe a time when God provided more than you needed.
9. How can you apply Jeremiah 32:27 to your life? Is there any need too great for Jesus to meet?

Friday: John 6:14; Deuteronomy 8:10-18; Luke 10

Acknowledge Jesus When Your Needs Are Met

10. What was the crowd's response to this miracle in John 6:14? What is your response when He meets your needs?
11. Have you ever failed to thank Jesus after He met your needs? Why is it easy to forget what Jesus has done for you after the crisis is over?
12. How can you better demonstrate faithfulness during your times of need this week?