

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

GROWTH
GUIDE

GROWING
through
CRISIS

Handout: 04/12/20

Study: 04/19/20

Growing From Misery To Joy

A joyful heart shines the truth of what we believe to the world. It matters. Christians are not immune to hardship, trial, and suffering. However, we experience them differently than others do. We have hope in the darkness. Peter instructed, “But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” (I Peter 3:15)

It’s interesting, isn’t it? A Christian’s hope shines to the watching world in such a way that we need to be prepared to defend our hope! We should expect and be ready for instances where people approach us, asking, “Why are you so hopeful?”

On the night before he died, Jesus shared a final meal and conversation with his disciples. Though they didn’t understand that Jesus was about to die, Jesus knew his time was short.

The apostle John recorded much of their conversation. Jesus comforted his disciples and encouraged them to not be troubled. He assured them that although he was going away, he would come back for them. He told them that if they loved him, they would obey him. He explained that the Spirit would come and dwell within them and be with them always.

And then Jesus explained why he was telling them all these things.

Jesus was on his way to the cross. He was preparing to endure unimaginable pain. At this moment, what was on his mind? What goal prompted his last words to those he loved? He told them: “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11).

Jesus was concerned about our joy.

At the height of his own agony, his love desired our joy. It’s unbelievable, isn’t it? For the joy set before him, Jesus endured the cross (Hebrews 12:2). And Jesus wasn’t hoping for us to have a little bit of happiness. He wants us to have fullness of joy—overflowing, abundant. Our joy matters to Jesus.

Our joy matters for more than ourselves. It causes the world to question, the church to rejoice, and is the hope of our Savior. It’s a good thing to pursue.

Source: “3 Reasons Your Joy Matters (And Isn’t Just About You)” by Melissa Kruger

KEY VERSE

Romans 5:2 (NKJV)

“through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Romans 5:1-2; I Peter 1:6-9

Introduction

1. How do you define joy?
2. Is it possible for your joy to grow during this crisis? If so, how is this possible?

Tuesday: Romans 5:1, 6-11; Philippians 3:7-11

Make Peace With God

3. How do we receive peace with God?
4. Justification means Christians stand before God just as if we never sinned. What impact does this have on your life?

Wednesday: Romans 5:2a; I Peter 2:5, 9-10

You Have Direct Access to God At Any Time

5. How do we gain direct access to God?
6. How does this impact your life? How often do you take advantage of this direct access?

Thursday: Romans 5:2a; Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19-22

Maximize Your Access To God By Praying

7. How would you rate your prayer life? Has it changed at all during the virus crisis?
8. How does prayer cause joy in your life?
9. What are some reasons why you might not be taking full advantage of your access to God?

Friday: Romans 5:2b; Psalm 105:1-3; II Corinthians 4:16-17

Anticipate The Glory Of God

10. How is God's glory displayed in the world? How is it displayed in you?
11. How does God's glory bring joy to your life?
12. How is God's glory displayed during this crisis? How can you join Him in what He is doing?