

## 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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## MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Lionel & Carol Martin | Portugal

1. PRAISE - Through COVID we have had new opportunities to meet and witness to our elderly neighbors. One of whom had recently broken her leg. We were able to discuss the fragility of life and point her towards Jesus.
2. Carol is in the “high risk” category for COVID due to her MS and has been told not to leave the house. Please pray for her.
3. PRAISE - We have been live streaming services and God is working!

## GROWTH GUIDE

## DEEP PRAYERS

Handout: 08/09/20

Study: 08/16/20

## How To Go Deeper In Prayer

Prayer is not an activity, but a relationship. You live continually in that prayer relationship. It is not something you do, but something you live. Long ago, in the beginning of my prayer exploration, the Lord redefined prayer for me. He said to me, “You don’t have a prayer life. You live a praying life.”

That recalibrated my understanding of prayer and gave me a different grid through which to view it. Prayer is not about sandwiching words between “Dear God” and “Amen.” Prayer is not about getting the words right and putting them in the right order. Prayer is not about adhering to a schedule or a structure. Prayer is freeing, not restrictive. It is simply about living in the flow of the power and provision of God.

If you are in relationship with God through His Son, Jesus, then Jesus has made His home in you. He has taken up residence in you. He is no faraway deity whose attention you hope to garner. He is in you, directing you and transforming you from His position inside you. A comment I often hear goes something like this: “I don’t feel like my prayers get past the ceiling.” My answer is: “They don’t have to go that far!”

This relationship is permanent and always operating. It is not an on-again, off-again relationship. When Jesus moves in, He’s all in. Lock, stock, and barrel. We are not always faithful from our side of the relationship, but He is always faithful to us. We are not always fully present to Him, but He is always fully present to us.

My youngest son, Stinson, during his college days, was home for a visit. He and I sat in the same room together. I was thinking about him—was he hungry? Did he need a blanket? I was thinking about his needs. He, on the other hand, was watching a game on television, checking email, texting friends. I said something aloud and he startled, “Oh! I forgot you were here!” Do you see? I was fully present to him, but he was not fully present to me.

Once Jesus is in residence, He is always fully present to you. Your needs and your longings are always before Him. His heart is set on you for good.

Every thought turned in God’s direction is prayer. No need for formality. Your words and sentences don’t have to align with a set regimen or preset criteria. Your naked heart exposed to the Father’s kindness is all it takes.

As you learn to live a praying life, you will become increasingly more aware of the continual interaction between heaven and earth. You will live in the realization that you walk daily in the flow of God’s power and provision. An undercurrent of prayer is always active in that person in whom the living, present Jesus dwells.

Source: *Prayer Fatigue: 10 Ways to Revive Your Prayer Life* by Jennifer Kennedy Dean

## KEY VERSE

Daniel 2:22 (NKJV)

*“He reveals deep and secret things;  
He knows what is in the darkness,  
And light dwells with Him.”*

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## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Daniel 2:20-23; Acts 2:42**

### Introduction

1. The article on the cover mentioned the difference between having a “prayer life” or living a “praying life”. What is the difference and which do you have?
2. What are some things that God has revealed to you through prayer?

**Tuesday: Luke 11:1-8**

### Ask Jesus To Teach You How To Pray

3. In today’s reading, one of the disciples asks Jesus how to pray. Why do you think he asked that question?
4. What can you learn from what Jesus says about prayer in the verses that follow?

**Wednesday: John 15:1-7**

### Understand How Prayer Is Related To Spiritual Growth

5. What does today’s reading teach us about prayer?
6. How has prayer led to spiritual growth in your life?

**Thursday: Mark 1:35; Matthew 6:33; Ephesians 6:18**

### Make Prayer A Priority

7. Is prayer a priority in your life? Why or why not?
8. To go deeper in prayer, prayer has to be a priority. What steps can you take to prioritize prayer in your life?
9. What distracts you from prayer? How can you avoid these circumstances?

**Friday: Mathew 18:20; Acts 1:12-14**

### Have Prayer Partners

10. Who do you have in your life that knows your needs and is praying for you?
11. Who do you pray with? Who do you pray for? Why is it important to pray with others?
12. If you are not currently in a Growth Group, would you consider joining one during this sermon series? If you are in a group, how has your life benefitted from having people to pray with and for?