

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

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Joshua & Carol Ngunta | MALI

1. Praise that God has added 3 more missionaries to our team since COVID-19 lockdown started.
2. Please pray as we onboard these new missionaries. Their new homes will need a lot of renovation and they need to be trained.
3. Please pray as our house churches continue, but with strict observation by the government. Rural ministries have been forced to stop meeting by the government. Food ministry has been banned.

GROWTH GUIDE

DEEP PRAYERS

Handout: 08/30/20

Study: 09/06/20

Lord, Stretch Me!

I appreciate the disciples. Their bald humanness shines out again and again. They repeatedly ended up with egg on their face or a foot in their mouth. Fear, doubt, ignorance, confusion, arrogance, and thick-headedness—they unwittingly displayed all of these and more. Reading about them in the Gospels never ceases to give me hope. If these guys could make it as disciples, then I have a chance.

One day Jesus was telling them about the need to repeatedly forgive repentant sinners. The disciples came back with a sincere yet comical response. Read it for yourself.

[Jesus said,] “So watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.” The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” LUKE 17:3–5

Don’t you just love it? Jesus told them to offer forgiveness seven times a day if necessary. The very thought of such “radical forgiveness” seemed so beyond them that all they could say was “Increase our faith.” Somewhat innocently and inadvertently, the disciples stumbled onto one of the most effective prayers written in the Bible, “Increase our faith.” They could not have prayed a better prayer.

The Bible persistently points to the priceless personality of faith. Faith is portrayed as the requirement for pleasing God (Hebrews 11:6). It is to be central in our lives (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38). It is the means of salvation unto eternal life (John 3:16; Acts 16:31). Faith is the activity that leads to a right standing before God (Galatians 2:16) and pure hearts with God (Acts 15:9). Faith helps us walk in the light (John 12:36, 46) and experience spiritual life (John 20:31). It is the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4).

It would seem that the major lesson Jesus wanted them to learn from His ministry was to trust God. And they finally got it. After repeated bouts of fear and failure, they realized what they needed was faith, and lots of it. So when Jesus again challenged their level of spirituality by calling them to radical forgiveness, the light bulb went on. The “aha” moment arrived at last and they offered a short, sweet, powerful prayer.

The disciples prayed, “Increase our faith,” and God did. These men, who had been guilty of being of little faith, ended up as men of outstanding faith. They had enough faith to launch the church less than two months after seeing Jesus brutally executed in Jerusalem. They had enough faith to continue preaching in the face of withering persecution.

Source: *21 Most Effective Prayers Of The Bible* by Dave Earley

KEY VERSE

Luke 17:5 (NKJV)

“The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Luke 17:1-10; Ephesians 2:8-9

Introduction

1. How has the Lord already stretched your faith this year?
2. What are some areas of your life where you are asking the Lord to stretch you?

Tuesday: I Peter 2:2; Romans 10:17; I Timothy 4:16

Stretch Your Faith Through The Bible

3. Do you have a plan for reading the Bible? What is it? What is the Bible teaching you?
4. How does the Bible shape your faith?

Wednesday: Luke 17:1-4; Matthew 18:15; Colossians 3:12-14

Stretch Your Faith Through Forgiveness

5. Why does a lifestyle of forgiveness require faith?
6. How does unforgiveness hurt us and our faith?

Thursday: Luke 17:5-6; I John 5:14; Ephesians 3:14-17

Stretch Your Faith Through Prayer

7. How does prayer increase your faith?
8. What did the disciples pray in Luke 17:5? What are some circumstances in your life that you need to pray this prayer for?
9. How has this sermon series Deep Prayers impacted your prayer life? What are you learning?

Friday: Luke 17:7-10; John 14:15-21; James 2:17

Stretch Your Faith Through Obedience

10. How can obedience stretch your faith? List some examples from your life where being obedient stretched you.
11. What does it mean to be obedient to the Lord? What are some areas of your life where you are most obedient.
12. Are there areas of your life where you are not obedient? What do you need to do?