

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



Charles & Jurldean Strong | Mexico

1. PRAISE - We have had 12 people in our church have COVID 19, but all have come through it due to our great God!
2. PRAISE - Our church in Rio Bravo cannot have on-site worship, but we are blessed that the Word is being preached online Sundays and throughout the week.
3. PRAY - Please pray that we can work and serve our wonderful Lord with renewed vigor in 2021.

GROWTH GUIDE

REDISCOVER Christmas
GOOD NEWS IN TROUBLING TIMES

Handout: 12/06/20

Study: 12/13/20

Finding Hope In Our Uncertainties

Micah prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days” (Mic. 5:2).

Isaiah prophesied something that was both very specific and unthinkable, that Jesus would be born of a virgin. “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isa. 7:14).

Genesis 22:18 tells us that Jesus would be born as a descendant of Abraham and as such would be the ultimate fulfillment of God’s covenant promises: “And in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” (see Num. 24:17).

The Old Testament also foretells that Jesus would be called out of Egypt: “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son” (Hos. 11:1; see Matt. 2:13).

Jeremiah tells us that Jesus would be born in the middle of the worst kind of human suffering: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more” (Jer. 31:15; see Matt. 2:16–18).

These prophecies remind us that the coming of Jesus is the result of the unstoppable zeal of a God of glorious redeeming grace. God wouldn’t leave his world in its evil-scarred condition of brokenness. He was unwilling to leave us lost in our sin and in hopeless bondage to the rebellion of our own evil hearts. He wouldn’t let his story end with dark moral failure and the requisite divine judgment. These, and many other prophecies, remind us that the great author of history’s plot determined that the overarching theme of his story would not be judgment, but grace. And he knew that if the story were to be a grace story, the central character would have to be none other than his Son. Only the divine Son of God would be up to the task of living a perfectly righteous life in the middle of sin and suffering, dying an acceptable death that would satisfy his Father’s holy requirements, and rising out of the tomb of his death as the author of eternal life for all who place their trust in him.

But here’s what you need to understand today. The surety of these past prophecies and the specificity of how Jesus fulfilled them is also your guaranteed future hope. The story that the prophets of old pointed to has not yet come to its final conclusion. This means that today, in your life and mine, God is still working his unstoppable plot, and he will not relent or rest until all that the prophets predicted is fully realized in the lives of every one of his children. Source: “Come, Let Us Adore Him” by Paul David Tripp

KEY VERSE

Matthew 1:20 (NKJV)

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-15, 19-21

Expect Uncertainties

1. What are you hoping for this Christmas?
2. What uncertainties did Joseph face in today's readings? How can his example help us deal with our uncertainties?

Tuesday: Matthew 1:19-20a; Psalm 27:1-5, 118:6

Do Not Be Afraid

3. What fears do you think Joseph would have experienced as a result of the news he received from the angel of the Lord?
4. How can we not be afraid when we face big challenges?

Wednesday: Matthew 1:20b-25; Isaiah 55:8-9; Ephesians 1:15-23

Trust God Even When You Don't Understand

5. What do we learn about Jesus from what the angel of the Lord told Joseph?
6. List reasons why God is trustworthy. What characteristics of God can help us to trust even when we don't understand?

Thursday: Matthew 2:13-15; II Timothy 3:12; Matthew 19:29

Obey God Even When It's Costly

7. What price did Joseph pay in order to obey God?
8. What are some prices that you have had to pay in your life to obey God?
9. What price did Jesus pay for you? What promise does He make in Matthew 19:29?

Friday: Matthew 2:19-21; Luke 2:22-38; Psalm 13

Allow God To Develop Your Patience

10. What do you think it would have been like fleeing from your country and not knowing when it would be safe to return? What challenges do you think Mary and Joseph faced while waiting on the Lord?
11. Today's reading from Luke 2 introduces us to Simeon and Anna who both waited a long time to see Jesus. What can we learn from their examples?
12. How is your hope-ometer these days? What hope have you given up on that God wants to renew in you?